

THE AMERICAN

JOURNAL OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, THE ARTS, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

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THE AMERICAN.

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WHARTON BARKER, President. JAS. W. NAGLE,
HOWARD M. JENKINS, Sec'y and Treas. Business Manager.

CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER

	PAGE.
REVIEW OF THE WEEK,	195
EDITORIALS:	
Business in 1883 and 1884,	198
Mr. Arnold on America,	198
WEEKLY NOTES,	199
SPECIAL ARTICLES:	
Recent German Works,	199
Tehipite,	200
The Tax and Surplus Question: A Proposed Bill,	200
REVIEWS:	
"Excursions of an Evolutionist,"	200
Maria Edgeworth,	201
AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS,	201
PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED,	202
ART NOTES,	202
SCIENCE,	203
THE DRAMA:	
Walnut: Robson and Crane,	204
Notes,	204
NEWS SUMMARY,	204
DRIFT,	205
FINANCIAL AND TRADE REVIEW,	205

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A copy will be sent free to each advertiser during the continuance of his advertisement.

Among the contributors to the last three issues of THE AMERICAN have been: J. G. Rosengarten, Miss Elizabeth McCall, Robert Ellis Thompson, Mrs. M. C. Pyle, John P. Lamberton, W. N. Lockington, Geo. W. Allen, Simon A. Stern, Howard M. Jenkins, L. W. Miller, J. V. Sears, Reginald Lewin, John Leyland, Theodore Child, Angelo Heilprin, Charles G. Leland, D. O. Kellogg, Francis Howard Williams, W. R. Thayer, Joseph Jasnow, J. P. Wickersham.

The issue of December 22 contained original contributions from seventeen different persons, and that of December 29 from sixteen.

Checks, Postal Orders, etc., should be drawn to the order of Howard M. Jenkins, Treasurer.

*Address through post-office: "THE AMERICAN, Lock Box, Philadelphia."

AMUSEMENTS.

WEEK COMMENCING JANUARY 7th.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—"Jalma."
ACADEMY OF THE FINE ARTS—Germania Orchestra, every Thursday, 3 P. M.
ARCH—"Solon Shingle."
CHESTNUT—Callender Minstrels.
OPERA-HOUSE—Joseph K. Emmet.
HAVERLY'S—"The Beggar Student."
MEMORIAL HALL (FAIRMOUNT PARK)—Museum of Industrial Art. Open every day. Free.
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"We consider it a public service to call attention to the general excellence of the Philadelphia AMERICAN, which in its short career has taken the front rank in literature and politics. It is conducted with great vigor and candor, and is thoroughly wide-awake."

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From *The Evening Telegraph*, Philadelphia, Sept. 1.

"This high-class journal has increased opportunity for usefulness in the political movements now beginning. It is one of the most learned and most ably written journals in the protective interest, and the manufacturers and merchants of the country appreciate its labors."

From *The Inquirer*, Philadelphia, October 13.

"THE AMERICAN is gaining rapidly in circulation and influence, and is taking that rank in the journalism of Philadelphia to which its literary merits entitle it."

From *The Evening Bulletin*, Philadelphia, Oct. 13.

"Our contemporary, THE AMERICAN, begins a new volume, and marks this point in its career by adopting a new type. In its present make-up THE AMERICAN is equal in appearance to the best London weeklies, and superior to any of its rivals in this country. Its table of contents is also excellent; apart from several columns of editorial notes and special articles upon current topics, it presents terse criticisms upon books of the hour, much interesting matter concerning art, literature, the latest scientific news, a summary of the week's news, and a financial report. THE AMERICAN is a credit to Philadelphia, and its increasing popularity is well deserved."

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 Office, 409 Chestnut Street.

PHILADELPHIA, FIRST MONTH, 1st, 1884.
 In conformity with an Act of Assembly of April 2, 1856, this Company publishes the following list of its assets and a statement of business for the past year:

STOCK ASSETS.

\$153,000 00	Lehigh Valley Railroad Company sterling 6s,	\$153,000 00
250,000 00	Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore 4 per cent. trust certificates,	233,750 00
60,000 00	Philadelphia and Baltimore Central Railroad Company 5s,	60,000 00
90,000 00	Texas and Pacific Railroad Company Consol. 6s,	86,170 00
127,000 00	Guarantee Car Trust 6s,	127,000 00
47,000 00	Pennsylvania Car Trust 5s,	47,000 00
100,000 00	Richmond and Danville Railroad Company Consolidated 6s,	95,750 00
68,000 00	Car Trust of New York, series F and G, 6s,	66,648 75
50,000 00	Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company general mortgage 6s,	47,375 00
49,000 00	Northern Central Railway Company sterling 6s,	49,000 00
50,000 00	Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company 5s,	50,000 00
300	Shares Central National Bank,	38,350 50
	Loans on collateral security,	5,801,738 14
	Cash on hand,	934,287 42

Actual stock assets at cost, \$7,190,063 81
 Market value of above, including accrued interest, \$7,302,384 39

INSURANCE AND ANNUITY ASSETS.

	Mortgages and ground-rents,	\$3,361,691 70
	Real estate, 409 Chestnut Street,	323,500 00
	Real estate, Nos. 38 and 40 South Fourth Street,	40,803 23
	Real estate, 108 South Fourth Street,	120,396 54
	Real estate, twelve properties bought under foreclosure,	91,364 13
\$120,000 00	United States 3s,	120,000 00
123,000 00	Lehigh Valley Railroad Company sterling 6s,	129,500 00
300,000 00	Lehigh Valley Railroad Company consolidated mortgage 6s,	293,500 00
18,000 00	Easton and Amboy Railroad Company first-mortgage 5s,	18,000 00
18,000 00	Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company first-mortgage 6s,	18,800 00
265,000 00	Pennsylvania Railroad Company consolidated mortgage 6s and 5s,	265,184 38
35,000 00	Summit Branch Railroad Company 7s,	22,500 00
309,000 00	Northern Central Railway Company sterling 6s,	323,880 00
101,000 00	Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore 4 per cent. trust certificates,	96,960 00
50,000 00	Philadelphia and Baltimore Central Railroad Company 5s,	50,000 00
144,000 00	Texas and Pacific Railroad Company first-mortgage 6s,	153,000 00
220,000 00	North Pennsylvania Railroad Company 6s,	229,372 50
36,000 00	Catawba and Fogelsville Railroad Company 6s,	36,000 00
16,000 00	Pennsylvania State 5s,	16,480 00
30,000 00	Belt Railroad and Stock-Yard Company first-mortgage 6s,	31,500 00
100,000 00	Missouri Pacific Railroad Company 6s,	100,250 00
150,000 00	Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company general mortgage 7s and 6s,	147,375 00
64,000 00	New York and Pacific Car Trust, series A, C and D, 7s and 6s,	64,000 00
134,000 00	Central New Jersey Car Trust 6s,	134,000 00
259,000 00	Car Trust of New York, series C, D and E, 6s,	258,935 00
100,000 00	Pennsylvania Car Trust 5s,	100,000 00
	Loans on collateral security,	171,258 33
	Premium notes secured by lien on policies,	50,428 23
	Cash on hand,	56,700 35

Actual insurance and annuity assets at cost, \$6,824,369 39
 Market value of the above, including accrued interest, \$7,024,405 03
 Unrealized assets, being deferred and uncollected premiums, less cost of collection 236,655 41

Total of insurance and annuity assets, \$14,281,060 44

Grand total of Assets, Stock, Insurance and Annuity Funds, \$14,583,444 83

LIABILITIES.

Capital stock, fully paid up,	\$1,000,000 00
Dividends not called for,	1,595 95
Due to depositors,	5,502,083 86
Surplus fund, accrued interest, etc., belonging to the stockholders,	798,704 58
Insurance fund reserve, computed by the Pennsylvania standard, being the sum necessary to reinsure all risks,	6,287,636 00
Death claims not due and other liabilities,	86,561 56
Surplus of insurance fund,	906,862 88

\$14,583,444 83

BUSINESS OF THE COMPANY FOR 1883.

Premiums and annuities received during the year,	\$1,402,618 56
Interest on life-insurance fund,	340,115 03
Less agents' commissions,	\$1,742,733 59
	120,601 66

Expenses, including branch office rents, salaries, taxes, medical examiners' fees, and stationery,	\$1,622,071 93
Distribution of the surplus (dividends to the insured),	135,296 88
Endowment policies matured and paid during the year,	165,707 84
Losses by death during the year (79 deaths),	99,600 47
Total amount paid for death claims since organization,	2,385,454 00
Annuities paid during the year,	18,055 40
2,212 policies issued in 1883, insuring	7,085,628 00
11,766 policies outstanding, Twelfth Month, 31st, 1883, insuring	37,499,951 00

NOTE.—The unrealized assets are included in the above statement in conformity with law, and because a counter-charge is made in the reserve on the debit side of the account.

NOTE.—The above statement of assets does not include any securities held in trust, they being kept entirely distinct and separate.

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THE AMERICAN.

VOL. VII.—NO. 178.

PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1884.

PRICE, 6 CENTS.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL GRESHAM continues to push his opposition to the Louisiana Lottery. A bill is announced as in preparation that will exclude those papers which admit lottery advertisements from the benefit of the law which permits them to be sent through the mail in quantities and paid for by weight. It might seem more logical to exclude such newspapers from the mails entirely; but as this lesser restriction will doubtless serve the purpose there is no need of recourse to the more vigorous procedure.

The Third National Bank of New Orleans is pressing its suit against the Department for refusing to deliver letters to the Bank since it became the agent of this State lottery. Whatever the decision may be, the law should be so shaped as to prevent institutions of this class from securing access to the ignorant people of other States through means created by the United States Government. And in this good work the Department is serving the best interests of the State of Louisiana itself. Its politics for years past have been dominated by this immoral institution, which is in alliance with every evil influence in Louisiana and has corrupted the Legislature and the office-holders, has presented the young with especial temptations to dishonesty, has demoralized a considerable share of the population, and now bids defiance to the national efforts for the prevention of its use of the mails.

A decision of great importance to the Department has recently been given in the interpretation of the law which seeks to make letter-carrying a monopoly of the national Government. Had the law entitled the Government only to the damages secured by civil process, it might have been found ample and strict enough for the purpose in view; but as it inflicted a criminal fine the maxim that laws of severity are to be interpreted strictly furnished the offending company with a loophole for escape. As the company send out their messengers with no regularity, it was held that they had not been guilty of the "regular delivery" of letters forbidden by the law. This decision, unless the law is altered promptly to meet it, may result in the transfer of the business of circular delivery from the Department to private companies.

THE wide interest felt in the subject of the distribution of the surplus of the national revenues, which was first discussed in our columns, is shown by the paper read by Mr. KNOX, the Comptroller of the Currency, before the Philosophical Society of Washington at a recent meeting. Mr. KNOX recited the facts which led to the distribution of 1836 much as was done in our articles, but with ampler details as to figures and amounts. In correction of the impression that the moneys then deposited with the States had been wasted or employed in works of internal improvements which were not needed, Mr. KNOX stated that "it is known that the States of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri appropriated a considerable proportion of the income from this fund to the support of public schools, and that in many of these States the income from the whole fund has been from the commencement and still is devoted to the education of the people." (This list includes just one-half the number of States then in the Union.) He pointed out that the last instalment proposed by the Act of 1836 never had been paid to the States, and that recently application for this instalment had been made by Virginia and Arkansas, in the former case through the Legislature.

It is evident that Mr. KNOX would regard the continuance of the policy of 1836 with no decided disapproval; and this is of importance, as he is one of the most trusted of the officials connected with our financial administration.

THE special commission appointed to report on the abolition or retention of the navy-yards find that it would be a mistake to abolish those which exist within the bounds or in the vicinity of great cities, whose defence is a matter of national importance; and that it would be equally

a mistake to retain those which are located at points which are not likely to be attacked by a hostile fleet. This sets aside such sites as New London as unsuitable for the purpose, while it retains Charlestown, Brooklyn, League Island, and other navy-yards in connection with great cities. They propose, however, that League Island should be closed until the steps have been taken which are necessary for its transformation into a great yard for the construction of steel ships of war. A change of this kind was suggested some time ago, but the Navy Department has been exceedingly slow in undertaking to make it. Certainly, if we are to have a navy worthy of the name, it must be constructed of the material which has superseded all others for this use; and the work, if it is to be done with economy, must be executed on the only river which has immediate access to our native supplies of iron.

OF Mr. CARLISLE's committees, on which we commented last week, not one appears to give so little satisfaction to those who are immediately concerned as does that on Civil Service Reform. It is true that Mr. CARLISLE is on the record as voting for Mr. PENDLETON's bill; but neither the chairman nor the members of this committee could have been depended upon to report that bill favorably, if it had come up at this session of Congress rather than at the last. Mr. COX is perhaps the best known of the Democratic members; but his zeal in the cause of this reform is an unknown quantity. By all sorts of false steps the Democrats seem to be making this question a party issue between themselves and the Republicans,—a policy by which they will be sure to alienate precisely that element of the Republican party to which they otherwise might have looked for unattached votes. Indeed, it is no secret that neither the leaders nor the workers in the Democratic party take this reform at all seriously. The way in which Democratic members are run down by applicants for places, according to their own confession, shows the popular estimate of their sincerity in the matter.

THE Ways and Means Committee have begun their work with sufficient promptness, a meeting having been held and the clerk appointed during the holidays, although but one member of the minority was present. Other questions than tariff reduction are pressing upon their attention. The whiskey interest renews its application for the passage of a law, such as was defeated in the closing hours of the last session by a single member from Kentucky. We had supposed from the statements then made that any relief offered by the present Congress would come too late for their purpose; but the reasons which led us to approve of the bill formerly seem to us equally forcible now. We have no friendly feeling for the distilling interest, and we resent its frequent intrusion into party politics as often gratuitous and always mischievous. But so long as the Government treats it as an object for special taxation we are bound to treat it with even and exact justice, and even to inflict on it no needless hardship. Nothing can be gained for temperance or any other interest by driving the distillers into bankruptcy, or forcing the sale of great quantities of their product at any price it will bring; and it seems that something like this may result from a refusal to extend the time in which whiskey may be kept in bond.

The proposition to put sugar on the free list is one which commends itself to an increasing number of members of both the House and the Senate. It is not improbable that any bill which the Ways and Means Committee may prepare will contain a clause to this effect. They perhaps would prefer a simple reduction of the sugar duties; but they know that a bill with that provision would come back from the Senate with sugar scheduled as free, and they will not care to give the Republicans the credit of taking off a duty which taxes the whole population of the country for the benefit of a single class in a single State, and which has not effected any extension of the home product of this commodity.

Mr. REAGAN has prepared and is pressing a bill which will throw open American registration for both the foreign and the coasting

trade to vessels of foreign build. We congratulate the gentleman upon his consistency. The Free Traders generally, in urging the opening of our registration to this class of vessels for foreign trade, have been giving particular assurance that they meant to keep the coasting trade closed to all but American vessels. There is not the slightest reason of principle for the discrimination; and any man who believes in Free Trade must regard it as an injustice that a shipping house is debarred from buying a Clyde-built vessel to ply between New York and Savannah. But Mr. REAGAN will discover that he is trying to drive the blunt end of the wedge foremost, while the Free Traders generally have been trying the thin end first.

If Mr. BUCKNER of the Committee on Banking and Currency really gave Mr. CARLISLE assurances of his conservative disposition before he was made chairman of that committee, then the term, "conservative," has a meaning in the South and West which it does not possess in the North. To this committee falls the consideration of what shall be done to enable the national banks to continue their circulation after the payment of the bonds by which that circulation now is secured. Mr. BUCKNER, without waiting to hear from the banks on this subject, or to consider in committee any of the plans which have been suggested by Mr. COE, Mr. KNOX, and others, has formulated his answer and has given it to the newspapers. It is to supersede the bank currency by Treasury notes without the legal-tender quality as fast as the retrenchment of the former leaves room for an issue of the latter. In the course of time, this would result in a complete monopoly of paper issues by the national Government. That monopoly would be reasonable enough, if it served the uses of the people equally well with bank notes; but we are surprised that a man so sound in his Democratic convictions as Mr. BUCKNER should be willing to concentrate so vast a power as this in the hands of the national Government.

Mr. BLAND from the Committee on Currency is equally distinct in his intimation that Mr. KELLEY's plan for the restriction of silver coinage will find no favor with that committee. So much might have been expected from the gentleman who in 1878 proposed the unlimited coinage of silver on private account. Had that plan been carried out, we should have been drained by this time of every gold dollar in the country, and England would have paid us in depreciated silver for all her purchases of food and other commodities. The bill of 1878 was a gauge of Mr. BLAND's intelligence on financial questions which it is not reassuring now to recall. Mr. BELFORD of Colorado reinforces Mr. BLAND with arguments drawn from the necessities of the silver-producing communities of the far West. He thinks the Government should go on coining silver and issuing silver certificates to represent it, even if it be necessary to build a special storehouse of vast extent to receive these fruits of the Mint. He does not understand why Mr. KELLEY should think of appreciating silver by stopping the coinage rather than going forward with it. Mr. KELLEY merely proposes to stop it in America in order to force Europe to resume it,—a result which would be far more beneficial to the silver-producing States than the continuance of the peddling policy we have been pursuing for five years past.

Mr. RANDALL and the Committee on Appropriations have on their hands the difficult task of making a point for the Democrats by exercising a stricter economy than was shown by the last Congress. Unfortunately for them, that Congress took a lesson from its Democratic predecessor, and cut down the appropriations of its second session even below the current needs of the Government, leaving this Congress to make up the difference in deficiency bills. It is therefore as good as impossible to make the appropriations of the present session less in the aggregate than those of that which preceded it.

In another direction, however, this Congress has the opportunity to make an admirable record in husbanding the nation's resources, and it seems likely to embrace it. The Committee on Public Lands are expected to report bills declaring the forfeiture of from fifty to one hundred million acres of the public domain granted to railroads, including the whole grant claimed by the Southern Pacific road. If the Committee will follow this up by a bill for the entire repeal of the Pre-emption Laws, and another for the amendment of the Homestead Laws in the direction of greater strictness to secure *bonâ fide* settlement, they will have done their share towards making this session honorable to their party and useful to the country.

Mr. ABRAM S. HEWITT in a recent letter to the *Buffalo Express* reviews the present depression of the iron interest and its causes in a way which is extremely gratifying to the Free Traders. He ascribes the present overproduction, of course, to the protective tariff, which excluded foreign competition during the revival of the iron business after the depression of 1873. Mr. HEWITT seems to us to assume rather than prove the most important points in this piece of reasoning. Is it Mr. HEWITT's opinion that if our capacity for the output of iron stood to-day where it did when the panic of 1873 occurred we should be in a position to use all the iron which we then should produce? And if Protection is responsible for the overproduction of iron in the United States what is responsible for the overproduction of iron and nearly every other great staple in Great Britain, and the still farther overproduction of grain in our own Northwest? What we said last week of the condition of the grain market finds ample confirmation in the financial article of the *New York Times* of December 30th: "Our markets abroad have fallen away from us. Had the demand for our wheat and cotton continued as active as it was in the good years, we should be very much better off; for with lesser crops the prices for them would have risen. Just the other thing happened when Europe entered on a period of commercial depression similar to our own, and in addition began to receive large supplies from new fields opened up in the previous period of prosperity and active demand. Hence we find the English markets filled up with Indian wheat, so that our farmers will not or can not without loss sell their wheat in them."

NEW YEAR'S DAY was observed by many American Churches of the Reformed or Calvinistic faith as the fourth centenary of the birth of ULRIC ZWINGLI. It is not possible, however, to awaken any such widespread interest in ZWINGLI as is felt in MARTIN LUTHER. The Swiss Reformer was distinctly a man of smaller calibre and less genial nature, and his influence has been much more limited. Even on the points on which he differed from LUTHER, the Churches of his own faith refused finally to follow him, and under the guidance first of BUTZER and then of CALVIN took up an intermediate position which they since have occupied. The finest thing in ZWINGLI's life was his death while serving as chaplain to the troops of his *canton* at the battle of Cappel. But that battle was an episode in a wretched civil war which the reformer did much to provoke.

THE decrease of the public debt during the month of December was eleven and three-quarter millions (\$11,743,337.05). Since July 1st, the commencement of the present fiscal year, the reduction has been \$53,049,383, which very amply bears out the predictions so often made in these columns months ago,—that notwithstanding the changes in the tariff and the cutting of internal taxes there would be at least one hundred millions of surplus during the present fiscal year.

And in connection with this state of facts there is one very simple and easy, but thoroughly practical, way of looking at the financial features which are involved in the general question of taxation, tariff, revenue and surplus. It must be perfectly plain to every intelligent observer that the present session of Congress will not reduce the revenues, and that therefore there will continue to be a large surplus. There will not be a reduction of revenue, because (1) a majority can by no means be secured for repealing the internal taxes, and because (2) a reduction of tariff rates, even if made, would induce larger importations for a time until the country's ability to buy was swamped; and these would maintain the amount of revenue.

If, therefore, the surplus is to continue, and to continue at large figures, how is it to be used? It cannot lie in the Treasury. And even its use for the purchase of the three per cents. disturbs rather than calms the monetary situation, because each call for bonds now deprives the national banks of the basis of their circulation and so contracts the volume of currency.

This, we say, is a plain case. And what is to be done about it? It is beyond question that the minds of practical men are turning each day more and more to the simple and effective remedy of utilizing the surplus for the relief of State and local taxation. We have been always willing to wait for the convincing force which we were certain time and circumstances would bring on this subject; and there is abundant evidence that this effective form of argument is in operation.

As the annual session of the New York Legislature begins with the

year, the Republicans came into control of both branches on New Year's Day. There was a lively contest for the Speakership of the House which we regret to say did not result in the election of Mr. ROBERT B. ROOSEVELT, whose career in the last House gave him high standing as an Independent Republican leader. We think it worthy of notice, however, that one of the elements which contributed to his defeat was the belief that he was not sound on the tariff question.

Governor CLEVELAND's annual message was occupied a good deal with the perennial question of reform in the methods of State taxation. New York is the wealthiest of all our Commonwealths. The amount of the State debt is very trifling; the cost of State government is relatively small; and yet the problem of raising the State's revenue by direct taxation upon real and personal property is one which taxes both the Executive and the Legislature to the utmost, without effecting that education to higher political methods which some New York authorities regard as a result of direct taxation. On the subject of prison labor Mr. CLEVELAND states the two sides of the case very fairly: "The opportunity of the workingman should not be injuriously affected by the labor of convicts in the prisons; nor, unless to avoid such a danger or other serious abuses, should the self-supporting feature of the prisons be lost and the expense of their maintenance be added to the burden of the tax-payers." This may seem like a straddle of the question, but it need not be so. It is perfectly possible to make the prisons self-supporting without bringing into the labor market either the labor of these slaves of the State or the products of their labor.

PHILADELPHIA is in the midst of the preliminary movements for the election of a Mayor, Receiver of Taxes and City Solicitor next month. It cannot be said that there is any excitement over the business, and it is as much as the truth will bear to say that there is a deep or general interest. Yet the Mayor even under the existing system has one highly important function,—that of appointing the police force; and the extent to which this bears upon the general welfare of nearly a million of people ought to dignify the chief executive position and make the filling of it a matter of great public concern. The present Mayor, Mr. KING, was elected in 1881 by a combined vote of Democrats and Independents over the Republican strength cast for Mr. STOKLEY. At present, everything waits upon the decision who is to be the Republican candidate. Two names only are proposed,—that of ex-Mayor STOKLEY, just alluded to, and that of Mr. WILLIAM B. SMITH, the president of Select Council. The latter has made what is termed a "personal canvass" for the place, and his nomination is asserted to be certain, as to which we shall know better a week later.

THE prospects of the admission of Dakota as a State of the Union will not be assisted materially by the scandal which has arisen with reference to the location of county-seats in the Territory. It is charged under oath that the Governor has made the selection of these locations a matter of real-estate speculation, having secured a solid interest in each of them before he would consent to their designation. A report of this kind always creates a bad impression about the community, and will be used by its enemies in their resistance to its wishes. But it is to be remembered that the Governor of Dakota was not selected as their Executive by the people of the Territory, and that he has been strenuous in his opposition to the steps taken to transform the Territory into a State.

THE letter of Sir LEPEL GRIFFIN to the London *Times*, deploring the influence exerted by the Irish in America, should serve to open the eyes of the English people to the folly of expatriating Irishmen to America, either by assisting emigration or any other kind of pressure. The Irish question was comparatively simple until a great Irish population grew up on our side of the Atlantic and began to use their American prosperity and their American citizenship as a fulcrum from which to affect the situation at home. As matters now stand, a prosperous Irishman in America is more of a thorn in the side of the British Government than is a distressed Irishman at home; and with the rapid growth of the Irish-Americans in wealth and in influence they cannot fail to become even more troublesome in the future than they have been in the past.

The dissension between the Orangemen and the Nationalists in Ulster is another fact which will prove a serious cause of embarrassment to the English Government. For thirty years, English Administrations were occupied with plans and measures for the abatement of the party feeling which has divided Ireland into two hostile camps. The whole of

this work has been undone as in a moment by the ill-advised appeal to the Orange element in Ulster as the representatives of Irish loyalty and the champions of the imperial connection. For a time, Mr. TREVELYAN and Earl SPENCER thought it sufficient to prohibit Nationalist meetings in Ulster whenever the Orangemen threatened to make a disturbance. This course came to an end because of the protests of the English Radicals that it was the business of the Government to protect meetings lawful in themselves against threatened violence, and not to suppress them. Instead of forbidding the meeting at Dromore in County Down, they sent troops to protect it and partially succeeded, the Orangemen being kept at the other end of the town until the Nationalists had adjourned. That the Orangemen were the aggressors, was shown by their making a detour through the fields to attack the Nationalists afterwards, and they must be held responsible for the bloodshed which ensued. But their adversaries were equally in the wrong in the recent attack upon the Orange procession at St. Johns in New Foundland, where the procession was fired upon and several persons seriously injured.

EVEN Englishmen are beginning to admit that their occupation of Egypt has proved a failure for all the essential purposes for which they undertook it. The Government of the Khedive is no stronger than it was six months ago. There is no certainty that it would last for an hour after the withdrawal of the British troops from the country. The ruler they are maintaining at the bayonet's point shows no ability to take a firm grasp of affairs or to acquire the confidence of the people. Recent events in the Soudan have shown the English that they undertook a much larger responsibility than they supposed in assuming the guardianship of Egypt. They thought of the country as lying around the Isthmus of Suez and along the Lower Nile; but they find that their most serious responsibilities lie almost in the heart of Africa, and as guardians of the monarchy they cannot with honor see its possessions impaired until they surrender their trust. But just at present they seem inclined to take counsel with prudence rather than with honor. They have refused to allow their officers to volunteer for the defence of the Khedive's Southern possessions; they have advised him to limit his territories by a line which would shut out entirely the region for whose possession EL MAHDI is fighting at present, and to entrust the custody of the ports on the Red Sea to the Abyssinians. The Khedive dare not, if he would, follow this pusillanimous advice. His position is already compromised by his relations with the English, and to take their orders to abandon his territories would be equivalent to abdicating the throne. Even the Egyptians would not endure a ruler who submitted to a rebel at the bidding of a foreigner.

M. PAUL BERT in his attacks upon American pork which induced a majority of the French *Corps Legislatif* to support the demand for its exclusion, against the judgment of the French Ministry, appears to have transgressed the bounds of veracity. He says that he is justified by statements made by the expert appointed by our Agricultural Bureau to observe the quality of the pork slaughtered in Chicago. But this gentleman flatly contradicts M. BERT, declaring that he never wrote the statement which the French politician and man of science professes to quote. M. BERT owes to both countries an explanation of his language; and if he cannot give it the Clerical party will be excusable for saying that the Ninth Commandment has no existence for an atheist, a materialist and a vivisectionist.

THEIR SUCCESS at Sontay has had the natural effect of raising the spirits of the French and making their demands more exacting. Not only Bac-Ninh but other points on the Red River are specified now as essential to secure their position in Tonquin, a certain island in the Gulf of Tonquin being the most important. Some Parisian papers demand that the Government shall exact of China an indemnity for the half-diplomatic and half-military resistance she has been offering to the claims of France,—a stretch of international arrogance far exceeding Prussia's demands of France in 1871.

The pressure for peace from the neutral powers of Europe continues, and the London *Times* reminds the United States that our treaty with China gives us an especial right to offer our services by way of amicable intervention. The rumor that Japan is ready to act as an ally of France, although discredited in some quarters, is probably true. The insolent and mendacious course pursued by the Pekin Government with reference to Formosa and the Liu-Tchiu Islands has produced in Japan a degree of irritation which is threatening in the highest degree.

[See "News Summary," page 204.]

BUSINESS IN 1883 AND 1884.

THAT the general business experiences of the country during 1883 were not satisfactory, will be admitted on all hands. But there will be a difference of opinion doubtless as to the extent as well as the nature of the trouble. The depression of the year in manufacturing is beyond question; but other than this it may be demanded with confidence what feature in the situation has been exceptionally or distressingly bad. It is easy to exaggerate unfavorable circumstances,—as easy as it is to paint too brightly the circumstances that are favorable; and in the desire to describe graphically the business experiences of 1883 more than one of the writers who have been dealing with the subject has grouped effectively only the features of failure.

The crops of 1883, all being considered, were good. They have provided us not only with abundant food but with a great surplus for export, as is conclusively shown, if proof be needed, by the unprecedented accumulations "in sight" at the great points of collection and shipment. The trade of the country has been marked by numerous failures; but the significance of these is liable to be greatly overestimated. They are more numerous, according to the reports, because the reporting is every year more extended and searching. Every little trader's troubles are now telegraphed over the country, and the aggregate seems large. But allowing for this explanation of part of the increase in number, and turning then to view the failures that were undeniably serious, it is found that a great part of them were due, not to bad general conditions, but to bad special methods. The man who speculates outside his business, who takes illegitimate risks beyond his control in case of an unfavorable turn, is in danger always; and it is this sort of a man who has added largely to the list of considerable trade disasters in the year just closed.

If, then, we turn to the stock markets, one thing is even more noticeable than the fact of a great decline in some of the quotations. This is that the decline has been in shares and securities that were definitely speculative in their character, and that the nominal losses, enormous as they are, have fallen, not upon the country generally, not upon the mass of the people, but upon "insiders" and "operators." Those who had gone up have come down; the depletion has been suffered by those who had fed fat; the water that was poured in has leaked out. In 1873, a great body of speculative securities was held by people of moderate means, who had not only bought them for value without sharing to any extent in the profit of their issue, but who could not afford the loss when they suffered discredit and ceased to yield a return. In this most important respect the contrast is very great. Taught by the severe experience of ten years ago, the people generally have not invested in that sort of securities which has been declining since this time last year, and the loss therefore falls on a class who can well sustain it, having themselves profited by the rise in quotations that preceded the decline. They have now simply to state the other side of their profit and loss account, and to feel themselves less rich than they thought they were.

Aside from these, other features of 1883 were variable. We sold abroad greatly more than we bought. To the end of November, this excess was eighty-six and a half millions of dollars. Specie continued to flow to us from Europe; considering gold alone, we received over twenty-one millions and sent away only five and a half millions. We have not shipped our surplus breadstuffs as we should have done, because with our abundance of idle money it was easy for speculators on the "bull" side to hold up prices above the level of the foreign markets. The construction of railroads fell off; but this was a sign of prudent slowing down. Its harmfulness lay chiefly in the fact that the iron and steel works, built to answer a great demand, had to slacken their operations and so shake the foundation-stone of our manufacturing industry.

But it is fair to dismiss 1883 without further consideration. It was not a panic year, like 1873; it was not a year of financial and business disaster, like 1857. It was simply one of less than average prosperity; and it avoided being anything worse simply because, profiting by the lessons of the past, the people generally managed their affairs with caution, and because, too, the general conditions of the country—its crops, its balance of trade, its currency, its banking system, its national and State credit, its peaceful and undisturbed situation,—were all such that wholesale disaster would have been altogether unnatural.

Turning then to 1884, the situation may be briefly described. There is no present danger of a commercial panic or of a general experience of trade shipwreck. The conditions of business are not unfavorable; they are mostly good. We may look forward cheerfully, and we should

do so, if but one thing were assured. But this is vital. It is controlling. Its presence or absence will determine the course of our business affairs. With good crops, a favorable balance of trade, a steady and safe development of our railroad system,—all of which we may not unreasonably look for,—we need now to have intelligent and skilful treatment of the great financial questions that press upon Congress and upon the Executive Administration. If these shall be well handled, there need be no concern as to the business outcome of the year. Capital is plenty. It is waiting for safe investment or a prudent use in new enterprises. Its abundance is one of the greatest contrasts with 1873. In that year, the rate of use was from nine to twelve per cent.; in 1883, it has been from four to five. But this capital will not be used until the future of our public finance shall be definitely outlined. If the bonds are to be paid off at the rate of a hundred—possibly a hundred and twenty-five,—millions a year; if no provision is to be made against the lessening of the currency circulation when the banks give up these bonds; if we are to coin silver dollars until silver becomes our specie basis, and gold at a higher value becomes merchandise; if we are to give no encouragement to lines of American ships that will carry our manufactures to foreign markets; if, indeed, at a time when England would gladly pour upon us the excess production which her mills and shops find the world turning against, we should lower our duties and invite our foreign competitors to take our markets; if, we say, these things are to be done, or any great part of them, then the outlook for this year, and for another year, and for more years, is bad. To have circumstances generally in our favor will not avail us, if our management of them is to be weak and foolish. We have passed through trying financial times since the war closed, and on the whole have dealt with them well; but new problems confront us continually, and the successes of the past do not avail for dangers of the present and future.

MR. ARNOLD ON AMERICA.

IT is not surprising to learn from Mr. ARNOLD that his preconceived ideas of our country, as expressed in his article of about a year ago, have not been borne out on a closer acquaintance with us. America is not that indefinite extension of middle-class England and lower-class England which he supposed. And his retraction of that estimate has its value as a comment on the native authorities which he alleged in the course of that essay. Circles and social classes in which the highest thought is native, as Mr. HALE then told Mr. ARNOLD, are as extensive and as dominant in their influence in America as in England. America has a hospitable welcome for new ideas of the highest order, whenever these authenticate themselves to the better self as making for righteousness. We have no London, no great centre of culture and refinement, to gratify that love of centralization which Mr. ARNOLD cherishes. But we are not losers by the absence of it. We are not ruining a nation to make a city, as France did and as England is doing.

Mr. ARNOLD's chief criticism upon us is one which we suspect took shape in his mind before he landed in America. We lack the spirit of order, of discipline, of obedience. A longer and closer acquaintance with us would show him, we think, that this is as much an error as was the false estimates into which his acrid American authorities misled him formerly. The disposition to obey authority is as great in America as in any part of the world. One reason of this is our Democracy. The miserable dualism of governors and governed which sets men against authority in Europe has been overcome in America. Every man is a part and portion of the sovereign people, and as such is entrusted with the enforcement of the law. Every great mass of people on the streets of London is dominated by the roughs and the pickpockets. In American cities it is dominated by the class which knows the rough and the pickpocket only as a social enemy. "Is it safe to trust ourselves in this crowd?" asked a gentleman from Manchester as his friend took him into the gathering on Broad Street before the Union League building on the night of an election-day. When he was assured that it was quite safe, he said that one would certainly be robbed, if he ventured into such an assemblage in England.

It is quite true that at times, when a suspicion arises that the ordinary process of law will fail to secure the punishment of evil-doers, recourse may be had to lynch law in some parts of our country. But even this is only a morbid expression of the popular consciousness of responsibility for the execution of justice. Mobs hang criminals in America; liberate them in Europe.

Mr. HERBERT SPENCER was more accurate in his estimate of American

weakness when he characterized us as too easy in our submission to all kinds of imposition. This takes the shape of acquiescence to small invasions of personal liberty, both by Government and by political leaders. A fundamental vice of our politics is excessive readiness to acquiesce in "what the party chooses,"—to put up with abuses which should make our blood boil, and invest party leaders with an authority which never should be granted to them. And "the remnant" in America, to which Mr. ARNOLD looks for our political salvation, instead of being a more obedient class than other men, are the revolters against usurped authority. Just because the public interest is first and greatest in their thoughts, they are resistant to an order of political procedure which would relieve them of political responsibility as completely as though they lived in Russia. They are men who are "making a conscience of their liberty," as FREDERICK MAURICE expresses it.

One service Mr. ARNOLD can render us by his visit. He is a man of large range of interest. As a poet, a critic, an educator, and as a writer on religious topics in a style which attracts readers who never would open a theological treatise, he has a large public in America. It has been his mental habit to regard all these things in their relation to national life, and to value everything just in so far as it tends to ennoble and purify the nation. This has not been the habit generally of those who deal with these matters in America. Neither art, nor literature, nor theology, nor even education, has been regarded and treated as holding a place in a national order of intellectual movement. They have been regarded by far too much as ends in themselves, or as having reached their highest purpose in the cultivation of the individual man. Not one of these things, with the exception of education, and that only imperfectly, is working directly for the upbuilding of the nation; and the dominant tendencies in each of them are as much anti-national as national. None of them give us the least assurance that their devotees are the better citizens, the more hearty Americans, for their devotion to these pursuits.

The remnant of which the old Hebrew prophets spoke as "the hope of Israel," and of which Mr. ARNOLD following them speaks as the hope of every nation, was made up of Israelites who thought of the nation more than of their culture, their wealth, their social standing, or even their soul's salvation. They were, as OLIVER CROMWELL said of the remnant in England in his day, "true to the great things of the Government," not separating themselves from the body of their countrymen in their aspirations and hopes, but desiring as their chief good the welfare of the whole body politic. Mr. ARNOLD has a right to speak of such men; with all his intellectual fastidiousness, and his hypercriticism of dissenters and the like, he is a living instance of what membership in such a minority must mean. But it is to be feared that many in America who appreciate this or that side of his literary work will not observe what is the central and unifying principle of it all,—the principle he has in common with his honored father, Dr. ARNOLD of Rugby.

WEEKLY NOTES.

THE University lectures heretofore referred to in THE AMERICAN are now announced in detail. They are to be ten in number and to be delivered at Association Hall. Professor R. E. THOMPSON will open the course on the 11th inst., his topic being "The Development of the House," and the further lectures and their subjects will be: January 18th, Dr. H. C. WOOD, "Why Doctors Exist;" January 25th, Dr. J. WILLIAM WHITE, "First Aid in Emergencies;" February 1st, Professor A. S. BOLLES, "Order and Progress;" February 8th, Mr. E. MUYBRIDGE, "The Romance and Realities of Animal Locomotion;" February 15th, Dr. JOSEPH LEIDY, "A Glance at the Lowest Forms of Life;" February 29th, Professor S. P. SADTLER, "Chemistry in the Industrial Arts;" March 7th, Professor E. J. JAMES, "The Creation of an Empire: The Life and Work of Count Otto von Bismarck;" March 14th, Dr. J. T. ROTHROCK, "Relation of American Forests to American Prosperity;" March 21st, Dr. GEORGE F. BARKER, "How Electricity Is Measured."

AMONG the important works added to the Philadelphia Library during the past six months, as appears by the January "Bulletin" of the Company, are: A copy of the "Bishops' Bible" (1602); a fac-simile of the "Codex Alexandrinus," published by the British Museum; the "Liber Sohar" and "Kabbala Denudata;" the Early-English Text Society's publications; a set of the *Germantown Telegraph*; the publications of the New Shakespeare Society; Commodore McCauley's "Manual for Students in Egyptology," the best practical work on hieroglyphics; the magnificent edition of the life and works of BENVENUTO CELLINI; "The Minutes of Evidence Before H. M. Commissioners of Agriculture" (three vols., folio, 1882); the "Monografia della Città di Roma," published by the Italian Government; "Don John of Austria" (one hundred copies

printed); MARGRY'S "Découvertes et Établissements des Français dans l'Amérique" (five vols., quarto); GERALD MASSEY'S "Natural Genesis;" a complete set of the publications of the Master of the Rolls; and the catalogue, in four volumes folio, of the Bodleian Library. Fiction occupies less than four pages in the "Bulletin" out of thirty-nine, and the recent acquisitions appear to have been made with care and judgment.

THE death of General A. A. HUMPHREYS, of the United States army, removes another of the notable men of the late war. He was a distinguished and capable officer as well as a very competent author, as is shown by his contribution to the Scribner series of "Campaigns of the Civil War." Like General KANE, he was distinctly a Pennsylvanian, and it is a little curious to trace his lineage back. His father, SAMUEL HUMPHREYS, was naval constructor in the United States navy for more than a quarter of a century; his grandfather, SAMUEL HUMPHREYS, a civilian ship-builder, but engaged in the public service, modelled and built a good part of the ships of the "old navy" of the United States; his ancestor in one generation farther back was CHARLES HUMPHREYS, of Merion, a member of the Continental Congress in 1774 and 1775, and a plain Friend; and the father of CHARLES HUMPHREYS was DANIEL, who came as a child with his widowed mother to Pennsylvania from Wales, soon after PENN'S arrival, with a certificate of membership from Merionethshire Quarterly Meeting. The HUMPHREYS were strictly Welsh in their origin, and the General, who wrote for the "Centennial Collection" in 1876 a biography of his ancestor, the member of Congress, took a warm interest in his family history and birthplace.

ONE of Colonel WARING'S recent undertakings in town drainage is at Keene, N. H., a place of about eight thousand people. The site of the town is almost absolutely level, making it extremely difficult to get enough descent for the sewage pipes. At an estimated expense of eighty-five thousand dollars, Colonel WARING undertakes to overcome the trouble. He excludes storm-water, rain, surface collections, etc., from the pipes, and limits them strictly to the carriage of waste matter, excreta, and the products of the various house pipes. The excluded water is collected in large tanks and used at regular intervals for flushing the sewers,—a plan which it is expected will compensate for the lack of fall. The greatest grade of the main sewer is one foot in eight hundred. The necessity of an improved system of drainage had long been felt by the people of the town, and severe visitations in recent years of scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhoid fever, and like diseases, enforced the conviction that some action must be taken.

A CIRCULAR is issued by the professors in the Wharton School of Finance and Economy, in the University of Pennsylvania, announcing the issue of a new periodical, to be called *The Wharton School Annals of Political Science*. The editors will be Professors THOMPSON, JAMES, BOLLES and MACMASTER, and the circular states that the work "will be devoted to the scientific treatment of all subjects within the domain of political science in the broader meaning of that term, including political economy, finance, accounting, administration, legislation, sociology, etc. Among other important features, we propose to conduct a book-review department which shall contain elaborate reviews of important works, notices of less important ones, and a complete list of current publications on political science, arranged by subjects." The first number will be issued on the 1st of March.

RECENT GERMAN WORKS.

THE ponderousness of German scholars has become proverbial and German humorists have been voted almost as bad; but for once the sins of both can be pardoned when the scholar and the humorist unite in producing such a delightful work as "Er, Sie, Es" ("He, She, It"). The publisher, too, comes in for his share of praise. The title-page announces "Egyptian humor, drawn from nature and written down 1,302 years before Christ was born, by C. M. Seyppel, Court Artist and Poet to His Blessed Majesty, King Rhamp-sinit III., Memphis." The book is made up in the style of the Egyptian papyrus. The leaves are jagged and worn with age, a musty seal adorns the cover, and the pictures, ridiculous and to the point, are illuminated with different-colored inks. The hits at the Egyptologists are numerous, while the Prime Minister strongly resembles Bismarck. The work evinces familiarity with the real originals, and will bear comparison, both for humor and force, with Mark Twain's "Appendix on the German Language" in the "Tramp Abroad."

Herman Guthe, in a work entitled "A Leather Manuscript of Deuteronomy," has exhaustively treated the famous Shapira manuscript so widely discussed a few months ago. He publishes a specimen of the style of writing forged after the "Moabite Stone," as well as part of the text in a parallel column with the received text. The author asserts that though the manuscript is a forgery its archaic forms are so perfectly constructed according to the laws of sound-change and analogy as to make it worthy of study; and in conclusion we have the doubt expressed whether this was the first trip made by this manuscript across the Mediterranean,—an insinuation that some European scholar assisted in the forgery.

The last few weeks have brought the usual quota of scientific works. "Phytogeogenesis" is the name of a treatise on plant life in prehistoric times by Otto Kuntze; G. Marpran adds "Die Spalpilze" to the subject

of *bacteria*; "Experimental Physics," by Ad. F. Weinhold, "The History of German Medicine," by Heinrich Rohlf, "The Physiology of the Embryo," by W. Preyer, "Human Parasites," by Max Brum, and "The Causes of Death," by Alexander Götte, complete the list of the more important scientific publications.

In philology the number is relatively larger. "German Etymology" is treated by Franz Harder; "Origines Ariacæ" is the title of a work on the beginnings of the Aryan family, by Karl Penka; August Lange gives an account of the peculiarities of vocalization in the French of the sixteenth century, and Karl Bartsch has published an enlarged edition of "The Poetry of the Troubadours," by Diez, one of the greatest authorities on Romance languages; Schrader's "Sprach Vergleichung und Urgeschichte" and Zachariae's contributions to Indian lexicography close the philological list.

In theology we have the collected writings of Dr. Dorner, an unfavorable review of Wellhausen's theory of the Pentateuch, by Roos, and the references to Luther and the Reformation in Marino Sanuto's diary.

In travels and history there are some valuable works: "Mesopotamia," by Edward Sachau; "Through Ice and Snow," the narrative of the "Jeannette" rescuing party, by W. H. Gilder; "Voltaire According to the Opinion of His Contemporaries," by Mahrenholtz; "Distinguished Sailors," by Reinhold Werner, comprising lives of Paul Jones, Nelson, Farragut and Tegenhoff; and a "History of the French Revolution, and Its Consequences," by Corwin.

In philosophy we have a work on "Sleep and Dreams," by H. Spitta; "Lessing's View of the World," by Gideon Spicker; "A History of Modern Philosophy," by Albert Stöckl; "A Guide to the Study of the Kantian Philosophy," by Herman Wolff; and by Julius Keller "The Origin of Reason," a critical study of Lazarus Geiger's theory of the origin of the human race.

"A Dictionary of the Arts," by A. Seubert; "The Conventional Ties of Civilized Mankind," by Max Nordau; "The Discoverer of the 'Niebelung,'" by Johannes Crüger; and "Goethe's Letters to Frau von Stein," together with a set of tables of mortality for the use of insurance companies, and a table of tariffs for all European countries, complete the catalogue of the late importations. C. A.

TEHIPITE.

EVERY RIVER that flows from the Sierras into the Great Valley of California has its *cañon*, of which the most famous but by no means the grandest is the Yosemite. The Kern, the King's, the San Joaquin, the Merced, the Tuolumne, the Stanislaus, the American,—all reach the plains through a series of gigantic rifts that taken together are perhaps without a parallel in the world. For the tourist who wishes to find every variety of scenery concentrated in one small and easily-accessible area, which in case of need he can "do" in a day, there can be no possible hesitation in recommending the Yosemite. But the mountaineer who is willing to undergo a little danger and a good deal of hardship, for the sake of looking on cliffs as high as Cathedral Rock piled on top of El Capitan, and rivers as broad as three Merceds flowing through gorges in which Mount Washington could be hidden, should devote a month to the exploration of the Kern and the South and Middle Forks of the King's. It is of one of these picturesque little nooks that I desire to speak.

I had a horse shod for the occasion,—for horses in the Great Valley seldom wear shoes,—and packed a saddle and blankets in the buggy. There is a tolerable wagon-road as far as the little summer-resort of Dinkey Meadows, and to that point there is no difficulty in travelling without a guide. At Dinkey I took to the saddle and joined a hospitable party of sheep men, bound for their camp near Tehipite. We followed a trail, sometimes clear, and sometimes so blind that I have never ceased to wonder how I ever found my way back alone. We rode twenty-five miles to the sheep camp, and there the trail, such as it was, came to an end, "with Sheridan only five miles away." Efficiently guided by the geographical instinct of a herder who had never been there before, I achieved the five miles in as many hours. I may mention incidentally that the trip is not yet one that can be conscientiously recommended to invalids. The extent of its vogue may be judged from the fact that to the best of my knowledge we were the only visitors of this year.

We stood at last upon Tehipite Dome, and as we silently watched the majestic solitude before us we were untroubled by regrets that we had not come on a railroad, and lacked the company of the fastidious tourist who grumbles at the Yosemite because French claret is two dollars a bottle and boot-blackening "two bits a shine." Apparently within jumping distance, but more than six thousand feet below, lay the valley, with a tiny brook flowing through its centre. The brook was the Middle Fork of King's River, and it was certainly one hundred feet wide. Its tumbling rapids betrayed themselves as irregular streaks of white, and their roar floated up to us like the ripple of a trout stream to one sitting on its banks. Directly opposite rose a splendid symmetrical peak of massive granite, displaying more than eight thousand feet of clear vertical height above the valley, which itself is nearly a mile above the sea. Such a sight is rare in the Sierras; for, lofty as the summits are, it is not often that you can catch one alone and make him reveal his full majesty.

Tehipite has its waterfalls, too,—some that surpass any in Switzerland; but in that respect it is inferior to some of the neighboring *cañons*. Cascades six hundred to a thousand feet high are worth looking at when you

are there, but they are not enough to give the place a reputation. Still in California everything depends upon the season. In August, the darker seams and scars that marked that southern wall of desolate rock told where in June a hundred streams had raced down the dizzy slopes and leaped from shelf to shelf, advancing perhaps a mile while they were falling the same distance. It was a miniature river-system standing on end; and here and there was a little green oasis of meadow grass, perched aloft in the chinks of that aerial desert where two months before a belated snow-drift was lingering. We sat and watched until prudence drove us away, and what we could not see we filled out with a scientific imagination,—which is just as good.

THE TAX AND SURPLUS QUESTION: A PROPOSED BILL.

THE following bill has been prepared, and will be presented in Congress when the session is resumed. Substantially it represents the views of this journal, and its passage, we believe, would be of great public benefit. That it is possible to improve it in some detail, is very likely; but for the present it is submitted as approaching very closely to the needs of the country:

"An act to provide for the general welfare, by the advancement of education and the extinction of public debt in the several States of the United States, through the utilization of the surplus revenue.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled:

"SECTION 1. That the moneys which shall be and remain in the Treasury of the United States at the expiration of each quarter of each fiscal year, after the payment of or provision for all appropriations for the said quarter, and after reserving a further sum of not exceeding fifty millions of dollars, shall be divided by the Secretary of the Treasury into two equal portions, and shall be distributed by him, in the manner hereinafter provided, among such of the several States of the United States as shall by law authorize their treasurers or other competent authorities to receive the same upon the terms hereinafter specified.

"SEC. 2. That the said Secretary shall pay the one half of the moneys so remaining in the Treasury to the treasurers or other authorities competent to receive the same of the several States of the United States, in the proportion which the number of persons being of the age of twenty-one years and unable to read in each State bears to the number of such persons in all of the States collectively, as shown by the national census last preceding; and the moneys so paid to each State shall be expended by it in the promotion of the elementary education of its people, without distinction of color, sex, race, or previous condition of servitude, by maintaining schools, erecting school-houses, or otherwise, and for no other purposes; *provided*, that no State receiving money as provided for in this section shall fund the same.

"SEC. 3. That the said Secretary shall pay the second half of the moneys so remaining in the Treasury to the treasurers or other authorities competent to receive the same of the several States of the United States, in the proportion which the aggregate of the population of each State bears to the aggregate of the population of all the States collectively, as shown by the national census last preceding; and the moneys so paid to each State shall be expended by it in the extinction of State, county or municipal debt, or in the relief of State, county or municipal taxation now required for meeting the cost of State and local government, and for no other purpose.

"SEC. 4. That the said Secretary shall pay the said moneys to the treasurers of the several States, or to the other authorities competent to receive the same, upon their giving certificates therefor, signed by such competent authorities in such form as may be prescribed by the said Secretary.

"SEC. 5. That the said Secretary shall require from the competent authorities of each State an annual and detailed report, showing specifically how the moneys so paid to the said States have been expended by them, and so far as ascertainable the results of the said expenditure in the advancement of education and extinction of debt, and otherwise, abstracts of which reports he shall transmit to Congress; and, if it shall at any time appear to the said Secretary that the moneys distributed to any State under the provisions of this act have not been applied in accordance with the true intent and meaning thereof, it shall be his duty to withhold any further payments hereunder until the further action of Congress.

"SEC. 6. That should any one of the said States decline to receive its proportion of the said moneys, or fail to provide for the expenditure of the said moneys as herein required, the proportion of the said moneys which would otherwise have been paid to the said State shall be paid by the said Secretary to the others of the said States accepting the said terms, according to their respective proportions, as herein provided."

REVIEWS.

"EXCURSIONS OF AN EVOLUTIONIST."

THE *bête noir* of the reviewer is the book of miscellaneous essays; for not only does he experience difficulty in doing justice to the author, but his own work is necessarily more or less chaotic, owing to its want of connection. In this volume, too, the difficulty is increased by the fact of the general evenness of the articles, none of which offers sufficient basis for a groundwork. Mr. Fiske's authority, however, on the subject of evolution enhances the value of many of his commonplace utterances. As an exposition of the philosophy of Herbert Spencer, his "Cosmic Philosophy" is the most comprehensive, able and perspicuous work in English, and his other exegetical contributions to that philosophy are important and valuable. A professed disciple of Mr. Spencer, Mr. Fiske has acquired not only his methods of discussion and treatment, but also to a certain extent the lucid style of his teacher. Naturally

* "Excursions of an Evolutionist." By John Fiske. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

enough under these circumstances admiration merges in unreserved eulogy.

The first two of these papers are respectively devoted to the description of the geological condition of Europe, together with the then existing flora and fauna, before and after the appearance of man, which event is placed far back in the Pleiocene Period, if not still earlier. The two following articles are given to the philological evidences of the common origin of the Indo-European races. Looked at in the spirit of their intent, as elementary accounts of the subjects treated, it would be difficult to find elsewhere so much in so little. The critical pages on "Sociology and Hero-Worship" are among the most interesting in the book, dealing as they do with the questions of the influence of individual efforts upon society, and of the true function of sociology. While fully appreciating the potency of individual initiatives, our author insists upon the reservation that such initiatives must be in harmony with the environment in order to have more than an ephemeral influence. There must be more or less receptivity as a *nidus* for the germs. Successful ideas have been like children delicate at birth and requiring affectionate care for their raising, but withal possessed of a latent strength which the battling of maturer years serves only to develop. Speaking of certain effective individual efforts upon the society of England, Mr. Fiske says: "We refer to those individual initiatives which had been selected for preservation [the italics are his,] by the aggregate of the conditions in which English society at that time was placed" (page 185). By showing what is the real object of sociology, much is done to raise that study from the disrepute into which among some it has fallen through too much being expected of it. Conversant about social aggregates and general facts, it does not concern itself about the prediction of specific occurrences under specific conditions. So complex and multifarious are the factors in social movements that nothing short of omniscience could grasp them all. "The study of sociology, in short, is primarily concerned with institutions, rather than with individuals. The sociologist does not need to undervalue in any way the efficiency of individual initiative in determining the concrete course of history; but the kind of propositions which he seeks to establish are general propositions relating to the way in which masses of men act under given conditions" (page 196).

To "The Causes of Persecution" assigned by Buckle and also by Lecky, Mr. Fiske claims to add original ones which, however, seem hardly more than logical unfoldings of implications. To the assigned cause of the belief in eternal punishment awaiting heresy, and therefore of any means being justified in compelling recantation, are subjoined, first, the amelioration of barbarous atrocities by the advance of industrialism; secondly, the denial of supposed infallibility of doctrine; and, thirdly, the abandonment of the idea of corporate and tribal responsibility for the acts of the individual. This last assignment is elaborated in the following article on "The Origin of Protestantism," while the undesirability of enforced unity of religious belief is emphasized in "The True Lesson of Protestantism." Before being published in book form, a judicious revision might have eliminated several reiterative passages from these papers.

Among the other contents for which there is not space left for special notice are "The Heroes of Industry," "Evolution and Religion," "The Meaning of Infancy," "A Universe of Mind-Stuff," and "In Memoriam: Charles Darwin."

Properly read, this book cannot fail to remove two popular misconceptions of Spencerian evolution in its religious implications. The first of these errors considers Mr. Spencer an atheist, because he asserts that the power underlying phenomena is unknowable, and the absurdity presents itself together with the statement of the proposition. In his "First Principles" and elsewhere, Spencer again and again relies on this as a fundamental verity; and an elaborate course of metaphysical reasoning is followed to show that the existence of this power is a truth the assurance of which is greater than any other. "The doctrine of evolution," says our expositor on page 301, "asserts as the widest and deepest truth which the study of nature can disclose to us, that there is a power to which no limit in time or space is conceivable, and that all phenomena of the universe, whether they be what we call material or what we call spiritual phenomena, are manifestations of this infinite and eternal power." The word, "manifestation," must not here be taken in a pantheistic sense. The second misconception alluded to arises from special investigations in and conclusions from what he terms "æstho-physiology," and imputes to him a materialistic interpretation of mind. Yet such an interpretation is farthest from his conception; and he not only argues most strenuously against materialism in his "Principles of Psychology," but in another place says in so many words that the difference between matter and spirit "is one never to be transcended while consciousness lasts." Mr. Fiske is perfectly correct in saying: "The doctrine of evolution, as applied by Mr. Spencer to the study of psychical phenomena, nowhere undertakes to interpret mind as evolved from matter."

Interesting and instructive, rather than profound and original, these short evolutionary "Excursions" under the guidance of Mr. Fiske are profitable and enjoyable.

C. DAVIS ENGLISH.

MARIA EDGEWORTH. By Helen Zimmern. ("Famous Women" Series.) Boston: Roberts Brothers.

Miss Zimmern here presents in succinct and readable form the facts of the modest and blameless life of an authoress better known to the last than to the present generation of readers, but whose works may be found more deserving of a resuscitation of popular favor than are most

of the rank and file of fiction of the present day. A renewed study and consideration of the works which were declared by Scott to have first suggested and inspired the "Waverly" novels, inciting him by "the rich humor, pathetic tenderness and admirable tact" of their studies of Irish life to attempt for his own country what she had so fortunately achieved for hers, will perhaps be best forwarded by an awakened interest in the personality of their author, in which the present biography may be an active agent. Though not offering any absolutely new material, this little memoir must not be considered as a mere abridgment of the more extended work of Miss Edgeworth's English biographer, but rather as derived from the same sources, especially the unpublished memoir written by Miss Edgeworth and a large number of private letters.

The story of Maria Edgeworth's life cannot be told without considering that of Richard Lovell Edgeworth also; for the life and genius of the daughter were so strongly influenced by those of the father that up to the time of his death she can hardly be said to have had an independent literary existence. What was the loss and what the gain to her genius from this sedulous parental supervision, each reader may decide for him or herself. Some dryness, some lack of spontaneity and unfettered humor, may be certainly chargeable to his pedantic influence; on the other hand, her gain in brevity, compactness and clearness of expression was probably greater than her biographer is disposed to admit. In a moral point of view, the relation of the daughter toward her father was a remarkably beautiful one. Filial love was the very foundation of her character; from it sprang and were nurtured the family affections which were continually transmuted in her into active virtues. For her father's sake, each new stepmother presented to this eldest daughter by her much-widowed parent was received with filial duty and tenderness, and his large and miscellaneous family of children were cherished by her with almost maternal affection. For these children were written those juvenile fictions by which Miss Edgeworth is even more widely known than by her novels of Irish life. "Early Lessons," "Frank" and "Rosamond" are probably much more popular even yet among childish readers than are "Castle Rackrent," "Ormond" or "The Absentee" with their elders. These novels are readily granted a place among "standard" English literature, but like other classics are too often left undisturbed, to gather dust upon the shelves of the library.

AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS.

HORATIO GATES JONES, Esq., of Philadelphia, one of the most diligent laborers in the field of local history in Southeastern Pennsylvania, especially with reference to the early Welsh settlers, has printed a history (pp. 24.) of the Baptist church in the Great Valley,—i. e., that in Tredyffrin Township, Chester County. This church was founded in 1711; a meeting-house being built in 1722,—the first Baptist place of worship in Chester County. The members and ministers were Welsh almost without exception for many years.

Building: An Architectural Monthly, a publication whose character is very clearly and sufficiently expressed in its title, impresses us as an excellent one in its line. The number for January contains a variety of practical matter, with a number of illustrations, including plans, etc., of a church, a handsome villa, and a modest house to cost twenty-five hundred dollars. (New York: William T. Comstock.)

Mr. William Paul Gerhard, C. E., who has been contributing to *Building* a series of articles under the caption, "Hints on the Drainage and Sewerage of Dwellings," has collected them in a volume which will be immediately published by William T. Comstock, New York. It hardly needs to be said that a practical work on this subject must be of great value; and such, it is averred, Mr. Gerhard's is.

Mrs. Eliza Clarke, who is descended from the Wesleys, has written a volume on Susanna Wesley for the "Eminent Women" series.——The London *Publisher's Circular* says that "the number of subscriptions in this country for Messrs. J. M. Stoddart & Co.'s 'Encyclopædia Americana' is much more than had been anticipated."——The English biography of the Princess Alice will not be published until next fall.——A new edition of Benson J. Lossing's "Life of Philip Schuyler," a book which has been out of print for several years, is in the press of Henry Holt & Co.——The edition of the "Almanach de Gotha" for 1884 is the one hundred and twenty-first annual issue of that publication.——*The Sanitarian* for 1884 will be published monthly, instead of weekly as heretofore.

The English Publishing Co. of New York announce that having completed arrangements with Messrs. Chapman & Hall, Kegan Paul, Trench & Co., and Isbister & Co., London, publishers of the *Fortnightly*, *Nineteenth Century* and *Contemporary* reviews, they will on January 1st, 1884, commence the reissuing of these publications in America. The three reviews will be furnished subscribers for twelve dollars, or any one for four dollars and a half. These are just half the London prices, while the reprints are modelled precisely on the original editions.

The discontinuance of two excellent foreign periodicals is announced,—the *Athenæum Belge* and *Copernicus*. The continuance of the former journal at some early date by other hands is hoped for. The last-named periodical was the well-known British journal of astronomy. Its loss will be greatly felt, as it held a specially important place among scientific journals.

The death was recently announced at Zurich of Herr Julius Frese, the German translator of Lewes's "Life of Goethe."—Another death which should go on the record was that announced in the foreign journals of a fortnight since of Swami Saraswati, the distinguished Sanscrit scholar and the founder of the Arya Somaj in India.

"The sixpenny editions," says the London *St. James's Gazette*, "which were in such demand twelve or eighteen months ago, are said to have lost their power to attract and no new specimens are being given to us. The explanation is, perhaps, this; that persons who care for books buy them to keep. The shape of the sixpenny editions was awkward and they were in paper covers. The success of a rather dearer but still exceedingly cheap series is very much accounted for by the fact that it is handy in size and has a cloth cover."

"Ishmael" is the title of Miss Braddon's forthcoming novel.—Miss Elizabeth Stuart Phelps has written a story, entitled "A Brave Girl," for *Wide-Awake*.—Mr. A. A. Watts has finished his biography of his father, Alaric Watts, which will be published in January at London. In it will be found some striking letters of Coleridge and some curious correspondence of Wordsworth's.

The next novel of the "No Name" series will bear the name of its heroine, "Diane Coryral." It is a story of domestic life in France.—*Jaghatai*, the literary language of the Eastern Turks, is receiving attention at Constantinople. Sheikh Suleiman Effendi has produced a *Jaghatai* dictionary.—Mr. Gosse's "Seventeenth-Century Studies" are to be reprinted by Messrs. J. R. Osgood & Co.—Two English writers have been successful in winning one of the French literary and scientific distinctions which are annually awarded, the Academy of Inscriptions having divided its numismatic prize between Mr. Barclay Head, for his history of Boeotian coinage, and Mr. Percy Gardner, for his treatise on the coins of Samos.

An English edition of Professor G. P. Fisher's "Grounds of Theistic and Christian Belief" is to be issued in London shortly.—Professor Palmer's "English-Persian Dictionary" has just appeared in London. The work was unfinished at the time of Palmer's death, but was skillfully completed by a friend and associate.—*Home Chimes* is the name of a penny weekly which comes out on January 2d in London, with a staff of such literary excellence as to make it rank amongst the most notable phenomena of serial literature. Mr. F. W. Robinson is the editor, and among the contributors to No. 1 are such distinguished names as Algon Swinburne, Sime, Phil Robinson, Watts, the author of "Mrs. Jerningham's Journal," Clark Russell, and others equally well known to publishers and the public.—A comical poetical collection is about to be published in England in monthly parts, consisting of parodies of famous authors, with biographical notes. Mr. Walter Hamilton is the editor. Tennyson naturally is the first subject.

Mr. Henry George is about to lecture in England on the land question.—A literary-copyright convention between Germany and Belgium was signed at Berlin a fortnight since. It has validity for six years, and does not essentially differ from the treaty of the same kind lately concluded between Germany and France.—Messrs. T. & T. Clark, of Edinburgh, are to bring out in this country in January, through N. J. Bartlett & Co., an edition of "Meyers's Commentary" in ten volumes, to be sold at twenty dollars. Heretofore this work has been issued in twenty volumes at nearly double this price.

"Shakespeare's Predecessors in the English Drama," a new book by Mr. A. J. Symonds, will be ready early this month.—"Poetry as a Fine Art" is the title of a new book by Professor Moyses of McGill College, Montreal.—The Belgian Institute of Geography is about to publish reproductions of the ancient maps of the Belgian cities which are in the Royal Library at Brussels.—Mr. Howard Paul is about to publish a volume of his stories, printed from time to time in periodicals.—The death at Rouen is announced of M. Theodore Lebreton, the "*ouvrier poète*," originally a factory hand, self-taught, and subsequently befriended by Victor Hugo, Lamartine and Beranger.—Messrs. Sampson Low & Co., of London, have just issued a list of stereotype plates and copyrights of upwards of fifty works published by them, which they offer for sale, including works of Mrs. Oliphant, Charles Dudley Warner, Erckmann-Chatrian, Mrs. Stowe, and Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Macmillan's Magazine for December gives a second instalment of "Senilia: Prose Poems by Ivan Turgeneff," which is as full of interest as the opening portion. There are striking articles in the number on "The True Statement of the Malthusian Theory," and "Genius and Versatility." Mrs. Oliphant's fine novel, "The Wizard's Son," nears its close with undiminished force.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

THE GUÉGUENCE: A COMEDY-BALLET IN THE NAHUATI-SPANISH DIALECT OF NICARAGUA. (No. III. of "Library of Aboriginal American Literature.") Edited by Daniel G. Brinton, A. M., M. D. Pp. 95. \$2.50. D. G. Brinton, Philadelphia.

EGYPT AND THE EGYPTIAN QUESTION. By D. Mackenzie Wallace. Pp. 521. \$4. Macmillan & Co., London. (Porter & Coates, Philadelphia.)

DIGEST OF LAW PUBLICATIONS. Pp. 246. \$0.25. Robert Clarke & Co., Cincinnati.

THE LIFE OF ZWINGLI. By Jean Grob. ("Standard Library.") Pp. 200. \$0.25. Funk & Wagnalls, New York.

RHETORICAL RECITATIONS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS. Compiled by Robert McLean Cumnock, A. M. Pp. 303. \$1. Jansen, McClurg & Co., Chicago. (E. Claxton & Co., Philadelphia.)

POLITICAL RECOLLECTIONS: 1840 to 1872. By George W. Julian. Pp. 384. \$1.50. Jansen, McClurg & Co., Chicago. (Porter & Coates, Philadelphia.)

TIMES OF CHARLES XII. ("The Surgeon's Stories," III.) By G. Topelius. Translated from the Original Swedish. Pp. 349. \$1.25. Jansen, McClurg & Co., Chicago. (E. Claxton & Co., Philadelphia.)

ART NOTES.

A STATUE of Harriet Martineau, by Miss Annie Whitney, was publicly unveiled in the Old South Church of Boston on the afternoon of the 26th ult. in the presence of a large audience, "composed mostly of ladies," the newspaper accounts state. There were short addresses by Mrs. Livermore and Wendell Phillips. The statue is of life-size, and represents Miss Martineau sitting in an easy attitude, with hands crossed in her lap. The face wears a pleasant and dignified expression. The work was procured through the efforts of a committee consisting of Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, Samuel May, George William Curtis, Mrs. Charles Francis Adams, Mrs. Ralph Waldo Emerson, William Lloyd Garrison, Mary Hemingway, and John Jay.

Of the one hundred and eighty authors and writers convened at a meeting to promote the erection of a statue to Balzac, three declined to adhere to the project,—M. Alfred Assolant, J. de Goncourt, and Émile Zola. The monument will cost one hundred and thirty thousand francs. The money is to be raised by a collection of sketches and essays by the authors, and by four theatrical performances.—On the 22d ult., there was to be unveiled in the foyer of the *Opéra Comique*, Paris, a marble bust of Georges Bizet, the celebrated and unfortunate composer of "Carmen" and "La Jolie Fille de Perth," on the occasion of the hundredth performance of the first-named opera. The sculptor is M. Paul Dubois, perhaps the most eminent artist of this class now living in Europe, who was chosen not merely on account of his genius but because he was an intimate friend of Bizet and his companion in the *École de Rome*. "Carmen" was first performed in Paris, March 3d, 1875.—Mr. Belt, the English sculptor, has decided, as the result of the famous litigation over the genuineness of his art work, to accept the compromise award of five hundred pounds suggested by the judges.—A mural tablet has just been erected in the Free Christian Church, Shrewsbury, England, with the following inscription: "To the memory of Charles Robert Darwin, author of 'The Origin of Species.' Born in Shrewsbury, February 12th, 1809. In early life a member of and constant worshipper in this church. Died April 19th, 1882."

Sir Frederick Abel has been elected chairman of the British Society of Arts in succession to the late Sir William Siemens.—It has been stated that "Doyle's was the only pencil, except his own, on which Thackeray ever depended." On the contrary, "Philip" and "Denis Duval" were both illustrated by Frederick Walker.—It has been decided by the family of the late Signor Castellani to hold two separate sales of the art collections left by him. One will take place in Paris and the other in Rome, early this year.

The American Art-Union, which has opened a permanent exhibition of works of art at 44 East Fourteenth Street, is a coalition of the artists of New York and of other cities, having for its object the general promotion of the common art interest of the country, and the welfare of the large and rapidly-growing class of those who follow the fine arts as a profession.

A memorial bust of the late Professor Stanley Jevons has been placed in Owen College, Manchester. Mr. G. W. Mullins, of London, is the sculptor.—M. Sedelmeyer has published the admirable etching which the great etcher, Waltner, began two years ago.—Mr. D. C. Thompson, author of "The Life and Works of Bewick," proposes to issue a similar volume on "The Life and Works of Hablot K. Browne." The illustrations will be from "Phiz's" original plates.—Some hitherto unpublished drawings by Thackeray will shortly appear in *The Century*, in an article entitled "Thackeray as a Caricaturist."

The uncovering of the new façade of the Duomo at Florence took place on the 5th ult., accompanied by immense enthusiasm.—Another pedestal of a statue erected in honor of a superior of the Vestals, and bearing an inscription, has been found in the course of the excavations among the remains of what is now conclusively ascertained to have been the "House of the Vestals" in Rome.—Dr. Anderson, whose beautiful collection of Japanese and Chinese drawings was purchased last year by the trustees of the British Museum for fifteen thousand dollars, has completed his catalogue of the entire set. There are altogether about two thousand drawings, ranging from the year 700 to 1820 A. D.

The Fifth Annual National Oil-Color Exhibition of the Philadelphia Society of Artists will be opened at the galleries of the Society, No. 1725 Chestnut Street, on Monday, the 21st inst. The entries for this exhibition closed on Friday, the 4th inst., and are considerably in excess of the hanging capacity of the galleries, requiring close discrimination on the part of the hanging committee. The Philadelphia artists are fully represented, of course, and many of the best-known painters of New York and Boston are also among the contributors. It would not be fair to

mention names until the works have been passed upon by the committee, but it is safe to say that the success of the exhibition is already assured, so far as the character of the collection is concerned.

The members of the Society give their twentieth reception to friends and patrons of art on Monday evening, the 7th inst., at the Academy of the Fine Arts. An attractive display of pictures and other works will be made on the occasion, and the Germania Orchestra will render an appropriate programme of musical selections. The membership of the Society is not confined to the profession, but is open to all who are interested in forwarding the progress of art in this community. It is to be hoped that this reception will aid in extending a better knowledge of the Society's work and enlarging the list of its supporters.

At the studio reception given by the artists of the Baker Building last week, several of the works intended for the coming exhibition above referred to were placed on view. Mr. F. deB. Richards had a large landscape entitled "Lycoming Valley;" also, two coast scenes,—"Sunrise, Anglesea," and "Twilight, Anglesea;" a charming wood interior,—"Above Renovo;" and a brilliant piece of color called "October Carpet." In Mr. James B. Sword's room the chief attractions were his "Newport Harbor," the finest and most important of his recent works; a life-size portrait of an Irish setter, and several *genre* pictures of interest. Mr. George Wright had two steamer subjects,—"A Calm on the Atlantic," and "An Ill Wind That Blows Nobody Good." The best figure Mr. Wright has yet shown was on his easel, a cabinet full-length, not quite finished. A charming young girl has fallen asleep with a plate of dainties on her lap, while two canine companions wait with restrained impatience for their share of the treat. A taking subject and well handled. Mr. Senat has been finishing the summer studies recently exhibited, and among those especially noticeable were "Within Sound of the Sea," "Summer-Time in the Land of the Weirs," and two water-colors entitled "Brewster Sands," and "Twilight, Wellfleet." Mr. Senat's exhibition picture, "A Gale in the Bay of Fundy," also attracted much attention. Mr. George C. Lambdin had a bevy of lovely girls in his room, delightfully fair to look upon; portrait studies, but draped and posed with an eye to picturesque effect. Two of these bright beings, standing together with bare arms upraised and sweet faces turned heavenward, are as beautiful as angels in the grace of their maiden innocence. Mr. Lambdin's pure and luminous color and exquisite delicacy of touch are most happily employed in the portrayal of feminine beauty. Mr. J. Liberty Tadd's class-room was made attractive by a rich display of decorative work, paintings on velvet, vases and figures of terra cotta, *repoussé* brasses, etc. This display would give the impression that Mr. Tadd's pupils are given to decorative work; but this is not the case. His classes are devoted to the earnest study of the figure, solid hard work in painting and modelling from the life being the basis of his instruction. Figure sketches, however, do not make and attractive display and were therefore relegated to the background. Mr. N. H. Trotter exhibited his companion pictures, "Hunted Down," and "The Lake-Shore," heretofore mentioned; also a hunting scene, "Pheasant Shooting," and two noticeable landscapes, "Bloom on the Buckwheat," and "In the Berkshire Hills."

The Philadelphia Sketch Club held their annual reception at the rooms of the Club, No. 1328 Chestnut Street, on Thursday evening, the 3d inst. About a hundred guests enjoyed the hospitalities of the Club, among whom were several artists from New York and elsewhere, and a number of Philadelphia connoisseurs and lovers of art. The rooms were filled with a loan collection of fine pictures, and there was also an interesting exhibition of sketches entered for the Club's annual prize competition.

Mr. Thomas B. Craig has in hand two important works, one or both of which may be seen at the winter and spring exhibitions. "Turning the Fallow" is a summer scene, representing a young farmer ploughing fallow ground, the fresh furrows of sandy loam lying off to the left, and gently undulating fields carrying the eye to the distant horizon. The orchard and farmstead, overhung by a light passing shower, occupy the middle distance, and the right foreground is filled with the dry weeds and late growths that come after hay. "Winter Twilight" is a contrasting subject, cold, obscure and mysterious as its fellow is bright, sunny and luminous. A country road stretches out toward the horizon, behind which the sun has disappeared, lined on the left by a scattering growth of "popple" trees, while on the right is seen a homestead with firelight showing through the open door. The ground is covered with snow and figures are trudging toward the house, these being made admirably serviceable in suggesting the comfort of reaching home on a frosty winter's night. The clouds are touched with the afterglow of a December sunset, and the varied effects of light, with resources limited to a narrow range and the color scheme confined to a low key, are very skillfully managed.

SCIENCE.

FORMATION OF CORAL REEFS.—Few theories in modern science have been so generally accepted as that propounded by the late Mr. Darwin in explanation of the growth and formation of coral reefs; and few have so effectually tended to anchor the principles of a science as this one did in the case of the science of geology. From the combined fact that reef-building corals are circumscribed in their bathymetrical distribution to a shallow zone not extending below the oceanic surface more than from one hundred to one hundred and twenty feet, and that

coral formations exist whose (supposed,) thickness can be measured only by hundreds or even thousands of feet, it had been urged and with convincing force that only on the theory of general subsidence could the nature of these remarkable oceanic structures be accounted for,—a subsidence which carried beneath the "coral zone" the part that was no longer living, and which permitted at the same time a continuous up-growth on top of this downwardly-decaying pedestal to high-water line. The Central Pacific Ocean with its innumerable coral growths was therefore pre-eminently an area of subsidence, and in the existence of such a subsiding area, it was contended, we were presented with the most cogent evidence proving the broad generalizations respecting the movements of the earth's crust that had already been so fully sketched out by Sir Charles Lyell and other geologists. The more recent researches, especially of Mr. Murray, naturalist of the "Challenger," and Professor Alexander Agassiz, undertaken in connection with deep-sea dredging investigations, seem to throw considerable doubt upon the time-honored explanation of Mr. Darwin, or at any rate to show that the same is by no means necessary to account for the phenomena. In support of this contradiction it is claimed (1) that in many areas of extensive coral growths evidences of subsidence are completely wanting; (2) that, on the contrary, facts proving elevation in many such supposed subsiding areas are sufficiently abundant; (3) that the supposed great thickness of coral structures, indicative of subsidence, is largely a matter of fancy, or at least requires demonstration before it can be accepted; and (4) that the "steep" descent of the outward or oceanic slope is in reality more nearly decidedly gradual, except where a *talus* might have been formed of cemented pieces disrupted by tidal or current action from the growing mass. It is now contended by the opponents of the usually-accepted theory of coral-reef formation, and with apparently much more reason, that the only conditions necessary for such formation are the existence of a submarine bank, platform, ridge or peak rising to within a moderate distance of the oceanic level; a sufficiency of food to permit of a vigorous development of the reef-building polyps; and the interaction of contrary or opposing oceanic currents, through whose influence irregularities in the manner and rate of growth, producing the various modifications of form, the channels, and lagoons characteristic of coral islands, are brought about. The circumstance must further be stated in opposition to the old view that most of the oceanic reefs, as those of the Pacific Ocean, rest in all probability upon volcanic banks or ridges, and not upon submerged continental masses, as has been generally supposed; at any rate, no traces of distinctively continental rocks have thus far been discovered upon any strictly oceanic island, nor have such traces been indicated by the dredge in corresponding submarine localities.

NOTES.—The surprisingly beautiful and no less remarkable afterglows which have for some time past followed the setting of the sun, the nature of whose occurrence has called forth numerous more or less ingenious explanations from physicists and other investigators of natural phenomena, are not, as is generally supposed, restricted in their manifestation to this country. The same or very nearly similar appearances have been and are still noted throughout Great Britain and over various portions of the continent of Europe, while exceptional and probably in some measure related atmospheric phenomena have been observed in India, Africa, and elsewhere. A correspondent whose abode is an open Karoo plain of South Africa, where fogs are entirely unknown, and where the surpassingly beautiful but very evanescent sunsets rival in brilliancy those of tropical regions, writes from Graaff-Reinet under date of October 21st: "Many of us out here are much interested in a very peculiar light visible in the west nearly every evening about an hour after sunset. It lasts until quite dusk and throws a sort of lurid glare over everything, and the sky is angrily red." —The Broca prize of the Anthropological Society of Paris, founded by Mme. Broca, the wife of the late distinguished anthropologist of the same name, will be awarded for the first time in April of the present year. It is of the value of fifteen hundred francs, and is intended to compensate the best memoir on a selected subject in human anatomy, comparative anatomy, or physiology as pertaining to anthropology. Competition for the prize is open to all, except to members of the executive committee of the award. —The committee of the late Munich Exhibition appointed to investigate the advantages to be derived from the Sedlacek electric head-light for locomotives, report that the intensity of the same, equalling four thousand candle-power, is such as to dazzle the eyes of the guard, and to materially interfere with the satisfactory carrying out by these officials of the observations prescribed by the regulations. The committee further express the fear that the extreme brilliancy may frighten horses! This light (which is visible at a distance of four kilometres, or about two and one-half miles), a modification of the Lacassagne and Thiers lamp of 1856, is supplied with its current by a dynamo placed on the boiler immediately behind the smoke-stack, and operated by an independent engine of its own. —A curious case of a combination nut—i. e., a nut possessing the combined characteristics of the fruits of several distinct species of plants,—is discussed by Mr. Halsted in a recent issue of *Science*. The nut in question (practically a walnut,) presents on its external aspect two well-marked superimposed areas, the smaller or basal area having a covering similar to that of the black walnut, and the upper or larger one a covering characteristic of the shellbark hickory. The four-valved exocarp and endocarp

possess the general characteristics belonging to the black walnut, but the lower portion of the shell recalls the butternut. This teratological curiosity is accounted for on the hypothesis of cross-fertilization, trees of the different species being located in close proximity to each other.—It is said that the force and quantity of the blown sand over certain portions of the peninsula of Cape Cod are such as to destroy in a comparatively short space of time the transparency of any glass that may be exposed to the battering action of the siliceous particles. All the windows of the fishermen's huts on Monomoy Point are stated to be so perfectly ground as to permit nothing to be seen through them. Even new panes are rendered perfectly opaque within two years. Here, as well as at various points along the New Jersey coast and further to the south, the "musical sand" occurs in such quantity as to constitute the singular "singing beaches," the nature of which has at different times attracted the attention of scientists from about 1820 up to the present time. The sound produced by walking over these singing beaches, which can be heard at very considerable distances (the attrition of sand held in the palms of the hand being distinctly audible at upwards of one hundred feet), has been likened to the repetition of the syllable, "grush," and must be distinguished from the familiar and entirely different squeak produced by wagon wheels or the human foot out of ordinary compact sand. No absolutely satisfactory explanation of the phenomenon has as yet been arrived at.—The first annual session of the Society of Naturalists of the Eastern United States was held in Columbia College, New York, on the 27th and 28th of last month, under the presidency of Professor Alpheus Hyatt, curator of the museum of the Boston Society of Natural History. The objects of this newly-founded scientific organization, which enrolls among its members professional naturalists, physicians, educators in science, and officers in scientific institutions exclusively, are the discussion of matters pertaining to museum management, laboratory practice and methods, classification of collections, the principles and methods of scientific training and investigation, and the general routine incident to scientific work. Papers were read by Professors Gage and Wilder of Cornell University, Professor James Hall of Albany, Professors Allen and Rothrock of the University of Pennsylvania, Professor E. D. Cope, Professors Hyatt, Niles and Minot of Boston, Drs. Wadsworth and Dimmock of Cambridge, Mass., and others. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Professor A. Hyatt; vice-presidents, Professors H. N. Martin and A. A. Packard, Jr.; secretary, Professor C. S. Minot; and treasurer, Professor W. B. Scott.—The death is announced of Professor Sven Nilsson, the eminent Swedish naturalist, in the ninety-seventh year of his age. He was the author of numerous publications bearing upon the natural history of Scandinavia, and was distinguished alike as a zoölogist, palæontologist, anthropologist, ethnologist and antiquary. At the time of his death, he shared with Professor Chevreul, the eminent French chemist, the honor of being the oldest scientist of his day.

A. H.

THE DRAMA.

WALNUT: ROBSON AND CRANE.

BBROAD COMEDY, catering as it does to so large a constituency and forming so important a department of the legitimate drama, rightfully demands at the hands of the critic an attention equal to that bestowed upon the loftier and less popular domain of tragedy. But it is to be remembered that in claiming an equal notice it invites an equally rigorous censorship.

There is a prevalent error which leads people to regard comedy as something to laugh at, and nothing more. Many play-goers who think themselves quite judicious stoutly maintain this position, though they seem never to reason that the notion involves the parallel one that tragedy is something to cry over, and nothing more. So far is either statement from being true that it may be broadly affirmed that the best comedy is not the most laughter-moving, nor the best tragedy that which most quickly compels our tears. Laughter and tears are, indeed, essential elements, and the best play is certainly that which can command the most rapid transitions of feeling; but beneath all there must be the enduring principle of life. The most screaming farce must bear its lesson, else it is not a good farce; the profoundest tragedy must point its moral, else it fails in the main reason for its existence. It is not a little curious that the latter proposition is generally admitted, while the former is widely denied, the result of the denial being a failure to apply to comedy those principles which are applied to work of a serious cast. This accords neither with sound criticism nor with good morals. Comedy has no more right to be crude, unseemly or indecent than tragedy or melodrama has; and profanity and vulgarity are as foreign to wit as they are to pathos.

We are led to these remarks, not as deeming them applicable to the performances of Messrs. Robson and Crane, but as bearing pertinently upon three-fourths of the low comedy which is presented and of which the presence of these gentlemen has served as a reminder. It is a real relief to witness plays, *mélanges* though they be, which depend for success upon the genuine comedy element, rather than upon the continual use of *le mot à double entente* and profanity. Here are two actors who can be thoroughly "funny" with only a very occasional violation of good taste, and whose comic effects are reached mostly through that strongest element of humor,—violent incongruity of situation. They

seem to have discovered the valuable fact that two things of opposite nature may have no suspicion of a laugh in them when viewed separately, and yet become intensely humorous when placed in juxtaposition. There is nothing comic in a dress-coat and little else than sentiment in Cupid; but put Cupid in a dress-coat and we have Puck, the incarnation of roguery.

Messrs. Robson and Crane's plays are based largely on this principle. The two actors are, moreover, completely equipped for their joint work. One is the complement of the other, and by reason of a marked difference in method each serves as the foil and background for the other's eccentricities. Mr. Robson is the more versatile and possesses greater power of facial expression. He has the advantage, too (for in his case it is an advantage), of a markedly peculiar voice, with which his audiences have long associated the humorous episodes of his work, and the very sound of which carries the house with him. Mr. Crane is slower in movement, but often irresistibly amusing in his deliberation.

He must be hard to please who cannot find something to satisfy him in the three pieces which have filled the Walnut Street auditorium with merriment during the past fortnight.

NOTES.

A FIGURE well known in local theatrical circles will be seen no more. Joseph D. Murphy, for many years the business manager of the Arch Street Theatre, died on Tuesday morning of pneumonia.

Mr. Lytton Sothorn, who can scarcely be said to inherit his father's genius, will appear in Philadelphia this winter.

Mr. Lawrence Barrett is to make his appearance at the Opera-House at the conclusion of Mr. Emmet's engagement.

Mr. Booth will play an engagement at the Walnut Street Theatre this month, and we shall have the opportunity of judging how far foreign travel may have polished or foreign adulation spoiled him.

"Hazel Kirke" has been drawing good audiences to the Chestnut Street Theatre during the week. It is one of the many good, wholesome plays for which we are indebted to the Madison Square management.

The "Beggar Student" is now in its fourth week at Haverly's, and the attendance shows little sign of falling off.

"Jalma" at the Academy is very gorgeous, but hardly calls for notice in a dramatic column.

Mr. Neil Burgess is a good character-actor. He will be succeeded at the Arch Street Theatre next week by Mr. Owens's perennial *Solon Shingle*.

NEWS SUMMARY.

FOREIGN.—The Argentine Government is about to issue four million national dollars to advance public instruction in the provinces and for the building of three hundred schools.—During a conference of the national school-teachers in Dublin on the 28th ult., stones were thrown through the windows of the lecture-hall where the conference was being held, knocking insensible one delegate and injuring another.—The condition of the Czar, who was recently injured by being thrown from his sledge, is satisfactory, but he is still unable to move the injured arm.—Information has been received in London from Hanover that Colonel Henry B. Rathbone, of Albany, N. Y., who with his wife and children was sojourning in that city, has killed his wife and attempted to kill himself. The information shows that the tragedy took place on the 24th ult. At that time, Colonel Rathbone, who was laboring under a fit of melancholia, entered the bed-chamber of his wife and shot her. He then stabbed himself. He is still living, but no hopes are entertained that he will survive.—The decree prohibiting the importation of salted meats into French ports was published in Paris on the 29th ult. It admits until January 20th, 1884, only fully cured, wholesome, perfectly preserved and completely salted meats, and they must be so pronounced by experts.—Lieutenant Colonel Sudeikin, of the Gendarmerie, Chief of the Department in the Military Governorship of St. Petersburg for the Preservation of Order, was murdered on the 29th ult. The murder was undoubtedly the work of Nihilists.—The French Chamber of Deputies, by a vote of 249 against 211, has rejected the Government credit bill to colonize Algeria.—A Nihilist printing-office was discovered in Warsaw on the 29th ult., in an obscure street. The compositors escaped.—Serious failures in the iron trade, aggregating liabilities of over eight million dollars, have occurred in England.—The American bishops remaining in Rome deny that any agreement has been arrived at by them concerning the attitude of the Catholic clergy of the United States towards Fenianism. The American bishops state that neither at the Propaganda Conference nor at the Vatican have they had any agreement, any disagreement or any discussion in any manner connected with Fenianism.—A letter from Pasasmayo published in *La Tribuna*, Lima, states that Puga was completely overthrown in a battle on the heights of Lollon which lasted ten hours. The Government troops were under the command of Colonel Iglesias. Puga fled towards Panca, pursued by the national forces.—The scheme for the revision of the French Constitution as proposed by M. Ferry, the Prime Minister, chiefly aims at the abolition of the office of life Senator and the restoration of the *scrutin de liste* system of voting. It is believed that the party of the Right will support the latter proposition.

DOMESTIC.—The imports at New York during 1883 amounted in value to \$120,365,653, against \$132,284,140 for 1882; and the amount marketed in 1883 was \$119,337,438, against \$129,010,613 in 1882.—Upon evidence of fraud, the Commissioner of the general Land Office has cancelled twenty-one entries of public lands in Colorado, seventeen in New Mexico, and twelve in Dakota.—

The Secretary of the Navy ordered a suspension of work at the Boston Navy-Yard on the 1st inst., and the dismissal on that date of half the force employed in the yard. As soon as the repairs to the steamer "Ossipee" are completed, an order will be issued by the Secretary closing the League Island Navy-Yard and converting it into a construction yard for steel vessels.—The Society of Naturalists of the Eastern United States, in session in New York on the 28th ult., elected the following officers: President, Professor Alpheus Hyatt of the Boston Society of Natural History; vice-presidents, Professors H. N. Martin of Johns Hopkins University, and A. S. Packard of Brown University; secretary, Dr. Charles Sedgwick Minot of Harvard Medical School; treasurer, Professor William B. Scott of Princeton; executive committee, Professors H. C. Lewis of the University of Pennsylvania, and Lester J. Ward of the National Museum.—

General Grant sustained a painful accident on Christmas Eve through a fall on the icy pavement in front of his house in New York. The facts were not generally known until several days afterward, when the deepest concern was everywhere felt and expressed. Fracture of the femur was at first feared; but it became soon apparent that the injury was a crushing of the muscles, resulting in a partial paralysis of the left leg. The General is now able to leave his room.—

We do not attempt to summarize "crimes and casualties," but now and then there is an exceptional incident which should go on the record. Such a one is the following, which should be a warning at this season: Mary Bristlin, aged twenty-six years, died on the 28th inst. in Philadelphia from the result of burns. She was lighting the gas in a chandelier when some evergreens attached to the ladder fell, and becoming ignited set fire to her clothing.—William Fox, convicted of murder, was hanged on the 28th inst. at Nevada, Mo. The execution took place in a natural amphitheatre about a mile and a half from the business portion of the town, and was witnessed by ten thousand spectators.—The State Department is informed that the International Congress of Hygiene will hold its next session at the Hague on August 21st, 1884. Any Government, State, corporation or school interested in the general subject is invited to send delegates.—Archbishop Tache, of St. Boniface, Manitoba, is in Montreal, making arrangements for the establishment of industrial schools for Indians throughout the Northwest.—

In the case of the Chinaman brought to New York on the ship "Resolute," the Secretary of the Treasury decides that he cannot be landed in the United States, but may be transferred to any other vessel going to a foreign country.—

The report of the Pennsylvania Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Higbee, just made public, says that in Pennsylvania there are 2,227 school districts, 19,542 schools, 7,897 graded schools, 15,721 school directors, 105 superintendents, 8,600 male teachers, and 13,414 female teachers. The average salary of male teachers per month is \$37.03; female teachers, \$30.05. The average attendance of pupils during the year was 957,680; cost of tuition, \$5,193,691.74; cost of buildings, tuition, fuel and contingencies, \$9,206,336.65; estimated value of school property, \$30,199,636; school tax levied for all purposes, \$5,676,547.57; estimated value of State and incorporated educational institutions, \$8,847,389.76. The increase since last year is as follows: In schools, 359; male teachers, 451; female teachers, 637; number of pupils, 12,335; cost of tuition, \$329,973.83; value of school property, \$1,858,076.—It is reported from Washington that the Committee on Public Lands expects to report a number of separate bills to Congress next week, declaring forfeited the lands which have been granted to certain railroad companies. The companies most interested are those in the Northwest and South, and the amount of land involved is reported by the chairman of the Committee, Mr. Cobb, to be between fifty and one hundred million acres. The Texas Pacific Railroad, it is expected, will be reported as alone forfeiting fourteen million acres.—The House Military Committee met on the 31st ult. and authorized General Slocum to report favorably the bill for the relief of Fitz-John Porter, which passed the Senate at the last session.—The Postmaster-General is preparing a bill for presentation in Congress, excluding newspapers which publish lottery advertisements from the pound rate.—There were 1,384 business failures in Canada during 1883, with liabilities amounting to nearly sixteen million dollars.—It is understood that Henry Villard has resigned the presidency of the Northern Pacific Railroad.—The Legislature of New York met on the 1st inst. and both houses organized with Republican officers. Denis McCarthy, of Onondaga, was elected President of the Senate, and Titus Sheard, of Herkimer, Speaker of the House.—The twenty-first anniversary of their emancipation was celebrated on the 1st inst. by the colored people throughout the United States. In Atlanta, Ga., there was a parade of four thousand colored men.

DEATHS.—Jean Baptiste Lesuer, the French architect, died in Paris on the 27th ult., aged 89.—Archbishop Napoleon Joseph Perch , a distinguished Catholic prelate, died in New Orleans on the 28th ult., aged 78.—Brigadier-General Andrew A. Humphreys, U. S. A., retired, died in Washington on the 28th ult., aged 73.—Dr. Johnson Eliot, a prominent physician of the District of Columbia, died in Washington on the 30th ult., aged 68.—Joseph Longworth, a well-known citizen of Cincinnati, died on the 30th ult.

DRIFT.

—By fifty-eight to seven, the Council General of the Seine has adopted a resolution for the demolition of the *Chapelle Expiatoire* which marks the spot where the remains of Louis XVI. and his queen were first interred. The mover, M. Lamouroux, described the chapel as an eyesore to one of the finest quarters of Paris, and argued that the two anniversary services having been stopped by the Government since the death of the Comte de Chambord, who paid the stipend of the late chaplain, there was no ground for preserving a monument of hatred towards the Revolution. M. Gamard, an Orleanist, opposed the resolution as being designed to widen the chasm between Paris and the monarchy at the very time when eyes were being turned to the Orleans princes. After some recrimination as to the share of "Egalit " in the death of Louis, the motion was carried; but the decision as to demolishing the chapel rests with the Government. On the other hand, the French freethinkers are about to erect an expiatory monument at Abbeville. The person whose memory is to be perpetuated is the Chevalier de la Barre. This lad of eighteen in a drunken frolic, assisted by another officer, mutilated a wooden crucifix at Abbeville one night. The second culprit fled to Germany, but La Barre was sentenced to be burned alive; and the Parliament of Paris on being appealed to

extended its mercy no further than to order that the lad should be beheaded before being burned. This happened in 1776. Voltaire vehemently protested against the ed.

—M. Jules Clar tie, commenting in the *Paris Temps* on the Tennyson peerage, says: "A nobility recruited like the English from men of great ability and reputation has considerable chances of duration; and here is an aristocracy which almost reads a lesson to our democracy. The English feel that a man like Tennyson deserves a seat among the potentates of his country, simply because he is a great Englishman. Politics have nothing to do with the matter. An inspired man emerges from the multitude. He is hailed, and after being read, re-read, and paid at a guinea a line, he is made a peer. I should not ask so much from Frenchmen, but merely a little more attention and respect for prominent men of genius. Alas! we are far from following the good example set across the Channel. If with us a poet were made Senator simply because he was a poet, all the small papers would ask whether our Senate was in its dotage. A versifier a peer! A composer of sonnets in the Senate! The wits would roar with laughter."

—M. Girard, director of the Paris Municipal Laboratory, says that the skill and ingenuity displayed by fraudulent inventors would suffice to make their fortunes a dozen times over in any honest capacity. The chemical knowledge applied to the concoction of spurious foods and drinks is of a very high order, the latest thing being the manufacture of gooseberry jelly entirely from sea-weed, there not being a particle of gooseberry in it. Unfortunately, too, in the coarser and commoner forms of adulteration quite as much activity is displayed. Flour is exposed to damp so as to make it weigh heavier, the result being that the gluten is altered and rendered less fit for bread-making and more liable to mould. Mineral products are often mixed with flour, such as lead, copper, zinc, sulphate of lime, and chalk. Of thirty-one specimens of flour examined at the Laboratory, only thirteen were found to be pure, a sample which came from Rotterdam containing as much as thirty per cent. of plaster, while another held twenty per cent. of sulphate of barytes.

FINANCIAL AND TRADE REVIEW.

THURSDAY, January 3.

THERE is perceptible an increase of cheerfulness at the opening of the year; and with a satisfactory management of national financial affairs there need be no doubt of a decided improvement. Money continues very plenty, and there was nothing of stringency preceding the large payments of interest and dividends at New Year's. In the stock markets, as will be seen by the figures below, there is no material change in the quotations as to the local shares that have an ascertained value. In New York, the changes, except as to the Northern Pacifics, are partly favorable and partly otherwise. On Tuesday, the report of the committee that had been investigating the affairs of the Oregon Transcontinental corporation was made public. They gave a list of "the assets of the Company, as shown by the books and from the certificates of parties holding securities as collaterals on loans, as well as the actual count of such securities as are in the possession of the Company," and stated the liabilities to be about eleven millions of dollars. The report does not seem to have materially affected the quoted price, either of Oregon Transcontinental or of the Northern Pacifics.

The following were the closing quotations (sales,) of leading stocks in the Philadelphia market yesterday, compared with those a week ago:

	Jan. 2.	Dec. 26.		Jan. 2.	Dec. 26.
Penna. R. R.,	58	57 7/8	Northern Central,	57	bid 60 1/4
Phila. and Reading,	27 13-16	27 1/2	Buff., N. Y. and P.,	11	11 1/2
Lehigh Nav.,	44 3/4	bid 44 1/2	North Penn. R. R.,	68	68 1/2
Lehigh Valley,	71	71 3/4	United Cos. N. J.,	194	194
North Pac., com.,	25 1/2	26 1/2	Phila. and Erie,	18	bid 19 1/2
North Pac., pref.,	52 1/2	56 1/4	New Jersey Cent.,	85 1/4	83 3/4

The following were the closing quotations of United States securities in the Philadelphia market yesterday:

	Bid.	Asked.		Bid.	Asked.
U. S. 4 1/2s, 1891, reg.,	114 1/2	114 3/4	U. S. curr. 6s, 1895,	128	
U. S. 4 1/2s, 1891, coup.,	114 1/2	114 3/4	U. S. curr. 6s, 1896,	130	
U. S. 4s, 1907, reg.,	123 1/2	123 3/4	U. S. curr. 6s, 1897,	132	
U. S. 4s, 1907, coup.,	123 1/2	123 3/4	U. S. curr. 6s, 1898,	134	
U. S. 3s, reg.,	100		U. S. curr. 6s, 1899,	135 1/2	

The following were the closing quotations of principal stocks in the New York market yesterday, compared with those a week ago:

	Jan. 2.	Dec. 26.		Jan. 2.	Dec. 26.
Central Pacific,	64	64 3/4	Northwestern, com.,	117 1/2	116 3/4
Canada Southern,	50 3/4	53	New York Central,	112 3/4	112 3/4
Den. and Rio Grande,	24 1/2	23 3/4	Oregon and Trans.,	31 1/2	37 1/4
Delaware and Hud.,	105	104 3/4	Pacific Mail,	41 3/4	40 3/4
Del., Lack. and W.,	116 3/4	116 1/4	St. Paul,	93 3/4	93 3/4
Erie,	27 1/2	27 1/2	Texas Pacific,	17 1/4	18 3/4
Lake Shore,	95 3/4	98 3/4	Union Pacific,	71 1/4	75
Louis. and Nashville,	44 3/4	46 1/4	Wabash,	18 1/4	18 3/4
Michigan Central,	87 3/4	89 3/4	Wabash, preferred,	30 1/4	31 1/4
Missouri Pacific,	98 3/4	92 1/2	Western Union,	74 3/4	74 3/4

The New York banks in their statement on the 29th ult. showed only unimportant changes. The reserve declined \$145,800, but the banks still held \$6,748,950 more than the legal requirement. Their specie stock was \$60,468,100 (at the

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corresponding date a year ago, they had \$57,627,100). The Philadelphia banks in their statement showed an increase in the item of reserve of \$147,134, in national bank notes of \$150,557, in due from banks of \$349,654, in due to banks of \$478,854, and in circulation of \$46,234. There was a decrease in the item of loans of \$478,575 and in deposits of \$323,749. The Philadelphia banks had \$4,440,000 loaned in New York.

The export of specie from New York last week was \$232,345, and the import \$44,429. Altogether, the specie movement for the year to and from New York was \$15,918,615 outward and \$21,112,892 inward. The Treasury statement for the month of November, issued on the 26th of December, shows the specie movement of the whole country to have been as follows for the eleven months of 1883 ending November 30th:

	Outward.	Inward.
Gold,	\$ 5,612,901	\$21,152,747
Silver,	23,016,946	12,714,368
Total,	\$28,627,847	\$33,867,115

The *Railroad Gazette* of the 29th ult. reports the construction of twenty-two and three-quarter miles of railroad, making a total of 6,020 miles so far in 1883.

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against 9,922 miles reported at the corresponding time in 1882, 7,870 miles in 1881, and 6,139 miles in 1880. This is larger than any year previous to 1880, except 1872, when 7,160 miles were built.

The *Coal Trade Journal* of the 2d inst. takes a favorable view of the coal interests. It says: "The anthracite companies have taken hold of the business in good earnest. They mark the opening of the year by agreeing to suspend mining for three days a week during January, February and March. This will give thirty-nine idle days, as compared with twenty-four in the same period of last year. It surely evidences the fact that they can control the market and that it is the intention to do so. In stopping during the winter months they exercise a very wise discretion, and put the trade in good shape upon the opening of the spring trade. We find some persons who are inclined to think that 1884 will be hardly so good a year for business as the preceding one. So far as the anthracite coal business is concerned in its entirety, we think the prospects are good; domestic sizes will be more largely called for, and it is profitable to reduce all the output to these sizes at the prevailing rates anywhere short of tide-water. In regard to the total for 1883, it will not be far from the figures given on December 19th,—31,300,000 tons. Bituminous coals close the year in rather unsteady condition as compared with anthracite, and there is very little of interest transpiring in the particular trade circles devoted to this portion of the industry; there have been rumors of strikes to take place, but they do not come to any solid basis when thoroughly run to ground."

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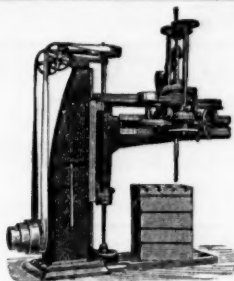
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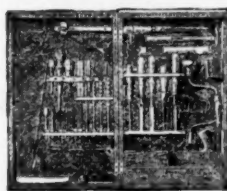
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